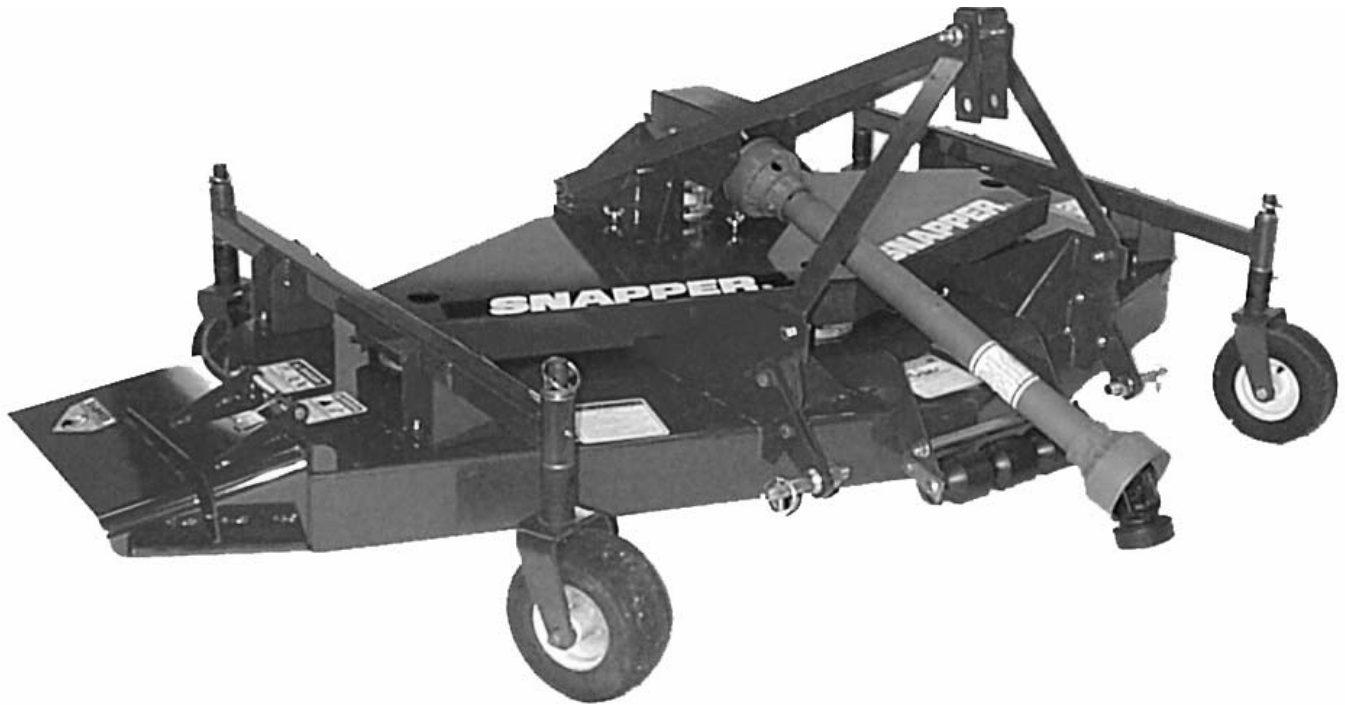


*Safety Instructions & Operator's Manual for*  
**SNAPPER®**

**73" FINISHING MOWER  
CATEGORY ONE  
3 POINT HITCH**

<b>MODEL</b>
<b>FM7300</b>



Thank you for buying a SNAPPER Product! Before operating your finishing mower, read this manual carefully and pay particular attention to the "IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS" on Pages 2 & 3. The "IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS" on pages 2 & 3 of this manual provide general safe operating practices and warnings for operating powered lawn mowers. You must refer to your tractor manual for specific operating instructions and warnings for your tractor. Remember that all power equipment can be dangerous if used improperly. Also keep in mind that SAFETY requires careful use in accordance with the operating instructions and common sense!

**SNAPPER®** McDonough, GA., 30253 U.S.A.

# IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

**WARNING:** This finishing mower is capable of amputating hands and feet and can throw objects that can cause injury and damage! Failure to comply with the following **SAFETY** instructions could result in serious injury or death to the operator or other persons. The owner of the finishing mower must understand these instructions and must allow only persons who understand these instructions to operate the finishing mower. Each person operating the finishing mower must be of sound mind and body and must not be under the influence of any substance which might impair vision, dexterity or judgment. If you have any questions pertaining to the finishing mower which your dealer cannot answer to your satisfaction, call or write the Customer Service Department at SNAPPER, McDonough, Georgia 30253. Phone: (1-800-935-2967). Follow the **SAFETY** instructions provided with your tractor and contact your dealer or the tractor manufacturer if you have any questions pertaining to its safe use.

## PROTECTION FOR CHILDREN

Tragic accidents can occur if the operator is not alert to the presence of children. Children are often attracted to the mower and the mowing activity. Never assume that children will remain where you last saw them.

1. **KEEP** children out of the mowing area and under the watchful care of a responsible adult.
2. **DO NOT** allow children in yard when mower is operated (even with the blade OFF).
3. **DO NOT** allow children or other passengers to ride on mower (even with the blade OFF). They may fall and be seriously injured.
4. **DO NOT** allow pre-teenage children to operate mower.
5. **ALLOW** only adults or responsible teenagers with mature judgment under close adult supervision to operate mower.
6. **BE SURE** the area is clear of others before mowing and turn mower OFF if anyone enters the area.
7. **DO NOT** mow in reverse unless absolutely necessary. **LOOK BEHIND** and down for small children before and when backing.
8. **USE EXTRA CARE** when approaching blind corners, shrubs, trees, or other objects that may obscure vision.

## PROTECTION AGAINST TIPOVERS

Slopes are a major factor related to loss-of-control and tip-over accidents, which can result in severe injury or death. All slopes require extra **CAUTION**. If you cannot back up the slope or if you feel uneasy on it, **DO NOT** mow it. Use extra care when using the finishing mower; it can change the stability of the tractor.

1. **DO NOT** operate mower on slopes exceeding 15 degrees (27% grade).
2. Exercise **EXTREME CAUTION** on slopes above 10 degrees (18% grade). Turn blade OFF when traveling uphill. Use first speed and avoid sudden or sharp turns.
3. **DO NOT** mow back and forth across face of slopes. Mow up and down.

## PROTECTION AGAINST TIPOVERS

(Continued From Previous Column)

4. **AVOID** uphill starts. If you stop mowing while going uphill or tires lose traction, turn blade OFF and back slowly down the slope.
5. **STAY ALERT** for holes and other hidden hazards. Tall grass can hide obstacles. Keep away from ditches, washouts, culverts, fences and protruding objects.
6. **KEEP A SAFE DISTANCE** (at least 3 feet) away from edge of ditches and other drop offs. The mower could turn over if an edge caves in.
7. Always begin forward motion slowly.
8. This mower attachment can affect the handling and stability of the tractor. Counter weights may be required. Contact the tractor dealer or tractor manufacturer for recommended safe practice before operating.
9. **DO NOT** mow on wet grass. Reduced traction could cause sliding.
10. **DO NOT** mow under any condition where traction, steering or stability is doubtful without first test driving over the terrain with blade OFF.
11. Operator Protective Structure may be required when this mower attachment is mounted to your tractor. Contact the tractor dealer or tractor manufacturer for Safe Operation instructions before operating.

## PREPARATION

1. Read this manual and tractor manual. Get to know where all controls are located and practice how to use them before starting for the first time, and at the beginning of each season. Read and follow all Warnings and Instructions
2. Only mature, responsible persons shall operate the machine and only after proper instruction.
3. Handle fuel with extra care. Fuels are flammable and vapors are explosive. Use only an approved fuel container. Never remove fuel cap or add fuel with engine running. Add fuel outdoors only with engine stopped and cool. Clean spilled fuel from machine. **DO NOT** smoke.
4. Practice operation of mower with **BLADE OFF** to learn controls and develop skills.

(Continued on Next Page)

# IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

## PREPARATION

(Continued From Previous Page)

5. Check the area to be mowed and remove all objects such as toys, wire, rocks, limbs and other objects that could cause injury if thrown by blade or interfere with mowing.
6. Keep people and pets a safe distance from machine.
7. Check shields, deflectors, switches, blade controls and other safety devices frequently for proper operation and location.
8. Make sure all safety decals are clearly legible. Replace if damaged.
9. Protect yourself when mowing and wear safety glasses, long pants and substantial footwear.
10. Know how to STOP blade and engine quickly in preparation for emergencies.
11. Use extra care when loading or unloading the mowing equipment into a trailer or truck.
12. Check grass catcher components frequently, if applicable, for signs of wear or deterioration and replace as needed to prevent injury from thrown objects going through weak or worn spots.
13. Attach mower to tractor hitch using proper hitch pins and retainers. If mower separates from tractor during operation, serious injury or death can result.
14. Adjust stabilizer bars on tractor hitch to prevent driveline contact with tires during turns and keep mower in proper position behind tractor.
15. Mower caster wheels must be on the ground and support mower before turning blades on. DO NOT operate mower at any time with casters off the ground. Blades must stop rotating before lifting or transporting mower to avoid dangerous driveline condition.

## OPERATION

1. Follow Tractor Manual Instructions for proper tractor operation.
2. STOP BLADE and ENGINE and make sure blade has stopped before removing grass catcher, if applicable, or unclogging mower to prevent loss of fingers or hand.
3. Blade must be OFF except when cutting grass. Set blade in highest position when mowing over rough ground.
4. Keep hands and feet away from rotating blade underneath deck. NEVER place foot on ground while BLADE is ON or machine is in motion.
5. Deflector or entire grass catcher, if applicable, must be in place. NEVER point discharge at people, passing cars, windows or doors.
6. Slow down before turning.
7. Watch out for traffic when near or crossing roadways.
8. STOP engine immediately after striking an obstruction. Inspect mower and repair damage before resuming operation.
9. Mow only in daylight or with good artificial light.

## OPERATION

(Continued From Previous Column)

9. DO NOT pull loads when mower is attached to tractor.
10. This mower attachment can affect the handling and stability of the tractor it is mounted on. Refer to your tractor manual or contact your tractor dealer or tractor manufacturer for SAFETY information and requirements for counter weights.
11. DO NOT operate mower unless all guards, shields and deflectors are in place.
12. Rotating driveline contact can cause injury or death. DO NOT operate mower without all driveline & mower shields in place and functioning properly.
13. DO NOT operate mower if driveline shielding is damaged or does not rotate freely.
14. Make sure all motion has stopped (traction, blades, etc.) and mower is parked in position to prevent movement before approaching mower for any reason.
15. DO NOT transport mower with mower blades rotating.
16. DO NOT exceed the recommended operating speed of mower driveline.
17. DO NOT stand on mower or driveline.
18. DO NOT exceed the safe working angle of the driveline. Make sure blades have stopped rotating before lifting mower.
19. DO NOT enter the area between the tractor and the mower until all rotating parts have stopped. STOP tractor. STOP engine. STOP blades. Set brake. Remove key.
20. DO NOT allow children or others to stand sit or ride on finishing mower.
21. DO NOT lift people or objects with the finishing mower.

## MAINTENANCE

1. Keep all bolts, nuts and screws properly tight. Check that all cotter pins are in proper position.
2. Lubricate mower at intervals specified in manual.
3. Mower blades are sharp and can cut. Wrap the blades or wear heavy leather gloves and use CAUTION when handling them.
4. Have mower serviced by an authorized SNAPPER dealer at least once a year and have the dealer install any new safety devices.
5. Use only genuine SNAPPER replacement parts on finishing mower to assure that original safety standards are maintained.
6. DO NOT work under the mower when lifted unless it has been securely blocked to prevent the mower from falling or moving. Disconnect driveline from tractor before doing any work on mower.

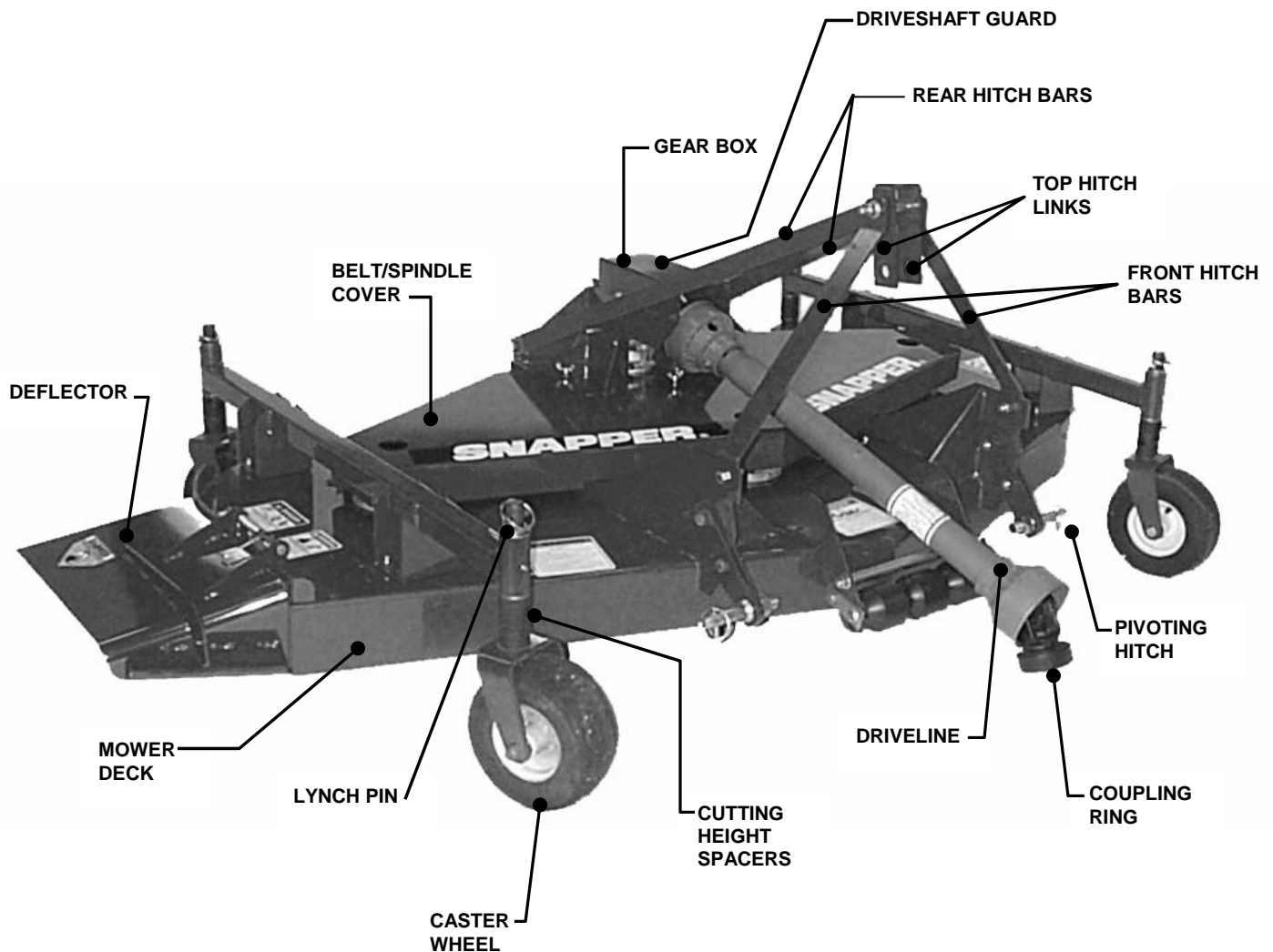
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## IMPORTANT

The IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS on pages 2 & 3 of this manual provide safe operating instructions and warnings for powered lawn mowers. You must refer to your tractor manual for safe operating instructions and warnings for your tractor.

# SECTION 1 - FAMILIARIZATION



## 1.1 INTRODUCTION

This manual has been prepared for the operators of the SNAPPER 73" Finishing Mower. Its purpose, aside from recommending standard operating procedures and routine service requirements, is to promote SAFETY through the use of accepted operating practices. **Read, Understand and Follow** the IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS on Pages 2 and 3 of this manual, **ALL** Safety messages on the 73" Finishing Mower and all Safety messages which accompany and are attached to your tractor.


## 1.2 NOMENCLATURE

The nomenclature information above, shows specific components of the SNAPPER 73" Finishing Mower. It is recommended that all operators of this equipment become thoroughly familiar with the controls, components, and operation of the mowing equipment before operating the mower. Driveline information is also found in the separate driveline owner's manual. Study all equipment manuals before operating the mower and keep all manuals handy for future reference.


## SECTION 2 - SET-UP INSTRUCTIONS FOR SNAPPER 73" FINISHING MOWER

### Set-Up Instructions

The following instructions cover the initial set up of the SNAPPER 73" Finishing Mower. Read and follow each step carefully.



**WARNING**



Read entire manual before attempting to set up or operate this mower.

This mower is designed for a Category 1 hitch and 540 rpm Power Take Off (PTO). Only attach this mower to tractors compatible with Category 1 hitch requirements.

DO NOT modify mower attachment in any way.

STOP tractor. STOP engine. SET Brake. REMOVE key. Allow all moving parts to stop before attempting any adjustments, maintenance or service to the mower.

**STEP 1:** Remove the mower and components from the shipping carton.

**STEP 2:** Assemble front & rear hitch bars and hitch link as shown in Figure 1. Tighten all hardware securely. **NOTE:** When assembled properly, hitch link should pivot on hitch bolt sleeve.

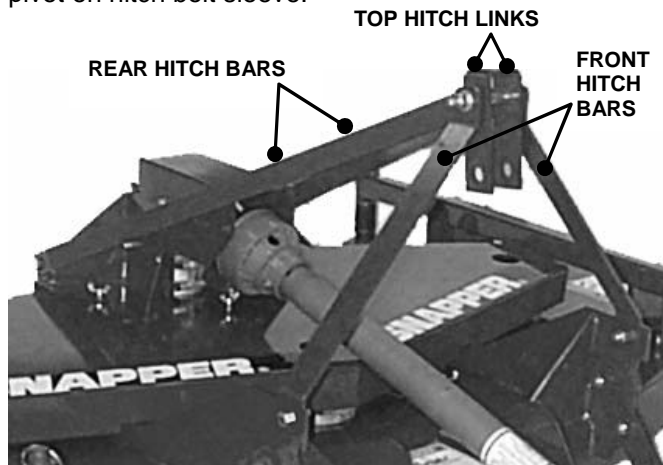


FIGURE 1

**STEP 3:** Check all lubrication points and gear box fluid level.

**A. Gear Box Fluid.** The gear box holds 20 fluid ounces of SAE 90 EP gear lubricant. To check the level, remove the breather/filler plug located on the top of the gear box. If lubricant is needed, the driveshaft guard covering the gear box will have to be removed. Add fluid as needed to fill. Install breather/filler plug and driveshaft guard. See Figure 2.

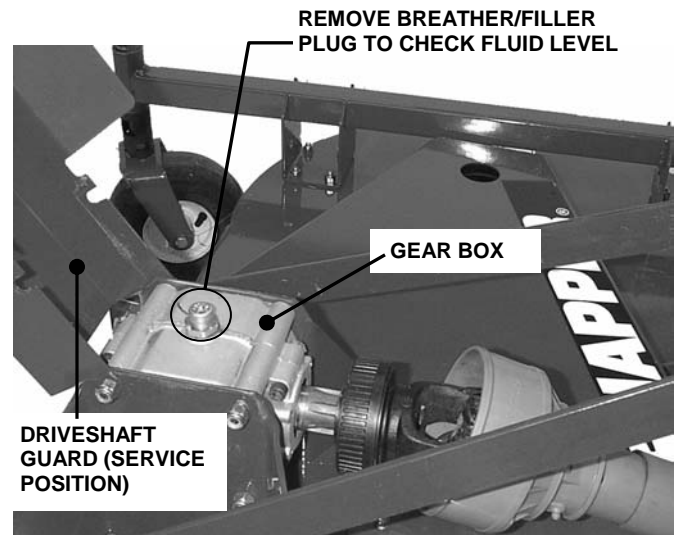



FIGURE 2



**WARNING**



Driveshaft guard must be down and securely attached before operating mower.

**B. Mower Spindle Housings.** Locate the grease fitting on the front of each of the three spindle housings. Add grease (Kendall NLGI No. 2 Lithium grease) using grease gun until grease purges out of spindle housing vent. **NOTE:** The spindle housing vent is located on the housing below the mower deck surface. See Figure 3.

**C. Idler Arm Pivot.** Locate grease fitting on idler arm. Add 1 to 3 shots of grease as needed from the grease gun. See Figure 3.

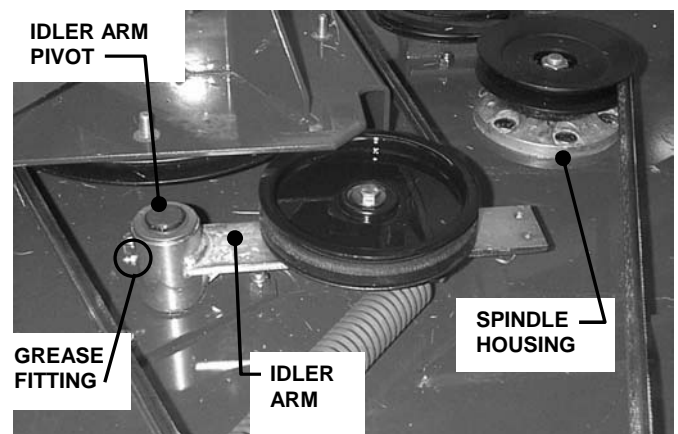
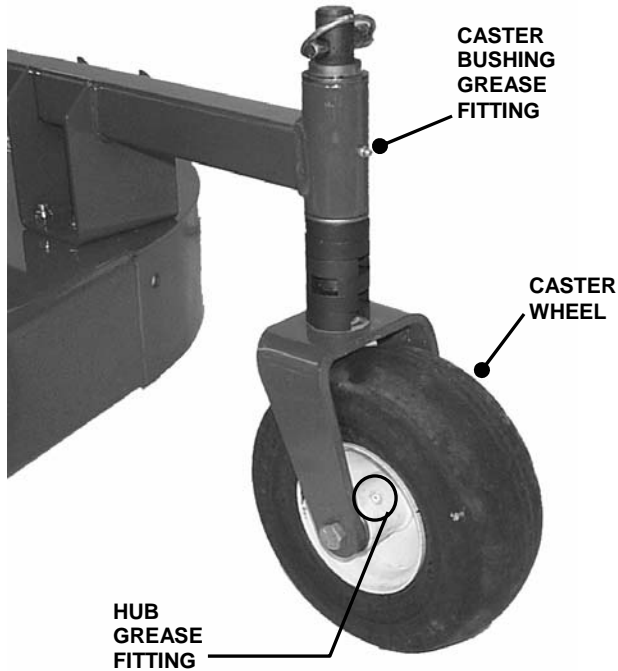


FIGURE 3

## SECTION 2 - SET-UP INSTRUCTIONS FOR SNAPPER 73" FINISHING MOWER

**D. Caster Bushings & Wheel Bearings.** Locate the four caster bushing grease fittings. Add 1 to 3 shots of grease as needed from the grease gun. Locate grease fittings in hub of caster wheels. Add 1 to 3 shots of grease as needed from the grease gun. See Figure 4.



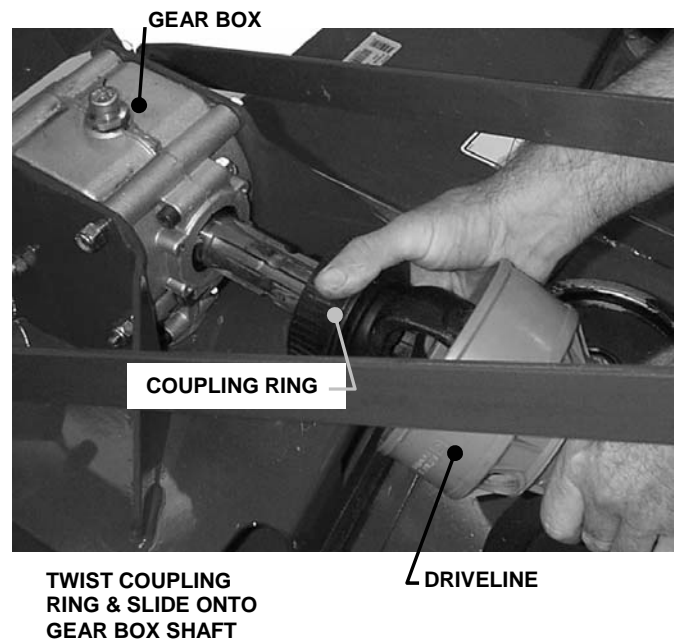
**FIGURE 4**

**STEP 4.** Remove driveline from shipping carton. Carefully inspect driveline for any signs of damage. Driveline shields must turn freely.

The driveline is supplied with an Operator's and Safety Instruction Manual. Read this manual carefully. Lubricate U-joint bearings, shield bearings, telescoping tubes, and locking collars as described in driveline manual before attaching to mower.

**STEP 5.** Attach driveline to mower gear box.

**A.** Twist the knurled coupling ring on the U-joint. See Figure 5.



DRIVESHAFT GUARD NOT SHOWN

**FIGURE 5**

**IMPORTANT:** The tractor end of the driveline is identified on the driveline shield. DO NOT install tractor end of driveline to mower.

**B.** With the coupling ring twisted, slide the driveline onto the gear box shaft. Release coupling ring.

**C.** Tug aggressively on driveline to insure it is fully seated and securely locked onto gear box shaft.

**STEP 6.** Inspect the mower to insure that all guards and shields have been installed. Check all hardware to insure that it has been securely tightened. The discharge deflector must be attached and in the down or closed position before operating.

	<b>WARNING</b>	
<b>DO NOT attempt to operate driveline without all guards and shields in place and functioning properly on tractor, driveline &amp; mower.</b>		

## SECTION 3 - OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

The operator must be familiar with the contents of this manual before attempting to attach or operate this mower. There may be specific operating and safety instructions with the tractor that are not covered in this manual. Read and follow the Instructions and Warnings in the tractor manual before operating mower.

### 2.1 MOWER PREPARATION

Read and follow mower set up instructions and inspect mower to insure mower has been properly set up.

**2.1.1.** Check guards, shields, covers and deflectors to make sure all are in place, securely tightened and functioning properly.

**2.1.2.** Check lubrication points and gear box fluid level for proper lubrication.

**2.1.3.** Inspect driveline. Driveline must be securely attached to the mower gear box. All driveline shields must be in place and rotate freely.


**2.1.4.** Inspect mower blades for damage and wear. Replace damaged or worn blades before operating.

**2.1.5.** Verify that the discharge deflector is attached and in the down/closed operating position.

### 2.2 TRACTOR PREPARATION

The following are general guidelines.

Refer to the tractor manual or the tractor manufacturer for specific instructions about the preparation and operation of the tractor.

 **WARNING**   
The tractor may require counter weights and the addition of an Operator Protective Structure when this mower is attached. Follow the Safety Instructions provided by the tractor manufacturer.

**2.2.1.** Remove tractor drawbar, if necessary, to prevent interference and damage to the driveline.

### 2.3 ATTACHING MOWER TO TRACTOR

This mower is designed to attach to a tractor equipped with a standard Category 1 three (3) point hitch and 540 rpm Power Take Off (PTO).

**2.3.1.** Place tractor and mower on level surface. Lower tractor 3 point hitch.

**2.3.2.** STOP tractor. STOP engine. Set parking brake. REMOVE key.



 **WARNING**   
DO NOT get between the tractor and mower when the engine is running. STOP tractor. STOP engine. Set Brake. REMOVE key. Allow all moving parts to stop before leaving the operators position.

**2.3.3.** Attach lower tractor hitch arms to the pins on the mower pivoting hitch. Secure with Lynch pins.



**2.3.4.** Attach the top hitch link to the top hitch link on the mower. Adjust the length of the link and insert the pin. Secure pin with Lynch pin. Tighten locking device on top hitch link.

**2.3.5.** Adjust stabilizer bars on lower hitch arms. Refer to tractor manual for proper adjustment procedure.

**2.3.6.** Attach driveline to tractor Power Take Off (PTO). Twist coupling ring and slide driveline onto tractor PTO shaft. Tug aggressively on driveline yoke and insure that it is securely locked into position.

 **WARNING**   
Tractor Power Take Off (PTO) shield must be in place before operating mower. Driveline must be securely locked to tractor and mower to prevent dangerous disconnect condition.

**2.3.7.** Verify the minimum and maximum working lengths of the driveline. The telescoping tubes must overlap at least 1/3 of the length while in use. The driveline must not bottom out or disengage during transport. Verify driveline length before engaging Power Take Off (PTO).

 **WARNING**   
DO NOT attempt any adjustments, maintenance or service to mower with engine running. STOP tractor. STOP engine. Set Brake. REMOVE key. Allow all moving parts to stop before approaching mower.

### 2.4 SETTING THE CUTTING HEIGHT.

**2.4.1.** Use tractor hitch to lift mower until all four casters are off the ground.

**2.4.2.** STOP engine. Remove key. Make sure all moving parts have stopped. Support mower securely to prevent it from falling.

**2.4.3.** Adjust cutting height by moving the spacers located on the mower casters. Placing more spacers on the bottom will increase the cutting height. Removing spacers from the bottom will lower the cutting height. Each caster has a total of 6 (1/2") slotted spacers to adjust the height of the deck. There must always be 6 spacers installed.

**A.** To remove spacers, first remove the Lynch pin and washer from the top of the caster.

**B.** Raise cutting height by sliding spacer(s) off of top and installing on bottom. Align slotted end of spacer with the two flats on the caster shaft. Slide spacer across flats. Repeat as needed to raise height.

## SECTION 3 - OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

C. Push up on caster to remove slack between spacers. Install washer and Lynch pin.

D. Reverse procedure to lower cutting height.

**NOTE:** All casters should have the same number of spacers installed below the caster tube when the cutting height adjustment is completed.

### 2.5 STARTING & OPERATING THE MOWER

Refer to the tractor Operator's Manual for starting and operating instructions for the tractor. Be familiar with all controls. Know how to stop the tractor & mower quickly in case of an emergency.

	<b>WARNING</b>	
<b>DO NOT</b> operate mower in transport position. All mower caster wheels must be in contact with the ground before blades are engaged.		

2.5.1. Transport tractor & mower with blades off to area to be cut.

2.5.2. Lower mower until all four caster wheels are on the ground.

2.5.3. Select a slow ground speed until you become familiar with the operation of the mower. Adjust forward speed, if desired, within safe cutting conditions.

2.5.4. Engage tractor Power Take Off (PTO) slowly to engage mower blades. 540 rpm Power Take Off (PTO) speed is required.



	<b>WARNING</b>	
<b>DO NOT</b> exceed 540 RPM Power Take Off (PTO) speed.		

### 2.6 STOPPING MOWER

Refer to tractor manual for details on the operation of the PTO.

2.6.1. Stop tractor. Bring engine to idle.



2.6.2. Disengage tractor PTO.

	<b>WARNING</b>	
<b>DO NOT</b> leave machine with engine running. <b>STOP</b> engine. <b>STOP</b> blades. Set brake. <b>REMOVE</b> key. Allow all moving parts to stop before leaving operator's position. Place mower on ground. <b>DO NOT</b> leave in transport position.		

2.6.3. Stop engine. Set tractor brake. Remove key. Allow all machinery to stop before leaving the operators position.

	<b>WARNING</b>	
<b>DO NOT</b> park mowing equipment on slopes.		

## SECTION 4 - MAINTENANCE

**WARNING**

**DO NOT attempt any maintenance, adjustments, or service with the engine or blades running. STOP engine. STOP blades. SET brake. REMOVE key. Allow all machinery to stop before leaving operators position or approaching mower.**

### 3.1 INTRODUCTION

Proper maintenance is extremely important. Failure to perform the following maintenance can adversely affect the performance of the mower, decrease the life of the mower, and can cause the mower to be unsafe to operate. Perform the following steps at the recommended intervals. Inspect the mower frequently for loose, missing, damaged and worn components. Fix or replace those components immediately. To retain the original quality of the FM7300 Finishing Mower, use only genuine SNAPPER replacement parts. Contact a local SNAPPER Dealer for parts & service assistance. SNAPPER recommends returning the mower to an authorized SNAPPER Dealer annually for inspection and addition of any new devices which might upgrade the safety of the mower.

### 3.2 SERVICE - AFTER FIRST 5 HOURS

**3.2.1. Inspect mower.** Carefully inspect entire mower for loose, missing, damaged and worn components. All guards, shields and deflectors must be in place. Repair and replace as required.

**3.2.2. Inspect mower blades.** Check blades for flatness, sharpness, wear and damage. See section "Mower Blade Repair/Replacement" for blade wear limits, sharpening and replacement instructions.

**3.2.3. Inspect mower belt.** The mower belt does not require adjustment. Visually check belt for signs of deterioration. Replace as required. See section "Mower Belt Replacement" for instructions.

**3.2.4. Inspect and lubricate driveline.**

**3.2.4.2. Lubricate U-joint bearings.** Rotate flexible cone shield to align access hole with grease fitting. Apply 2 to 3 shots of General Purpose grease from a grease gun.

**3.2.4.3. Lubricate driveline shield bearings.** Locate grease fitting on flexible cone shield. Apply 2 to 3 shots of General Purpose grease from a grease gun.

**3.2.4.4. Lubricate driveline telescoping tubes.** Slide driveline apart. Wipe male surface of tube with grease. Carefully insert tubes, making sure that the driveline shields are aligned and not binding.

### 3.2.5. LUBRICATE MOWER COMPONENTS

**3.2.5.1. Mower spindle housings.** Apply 2 to 3 shots of grease (Kendall NLGI No. 2 Lithium grease).

**NOTE:** The spindle housings are equipped with a grease purge valve. The valve is located on the housing below the deck. The spindle housing has been properly lubricated when grease exits the purge valve.

**3.2.5.2. Mower Caster Bushings.** Apply 1 to 2 shots at each of the four locations.

**3.2.5.3. Mower Caster Wheel Bearing.** Apply 1 to 2 shots at each of the four locations.

**3.2.5.4. Mower Belt Idler Arm.** Apply 1 to 2 shots of grease at idler arm pivot.

**3.2.5.5. Mower Gear Box.** Check fluid level in gear box. Remove breather/filler plug located on top of gear box. The gear box holds 20 ounces of SAE 90 EP gear lube. Reinstall plug. DO NOT over tighten.

### 3.3 SERVICE - EVERY 25 HOURS

Perform all inspections, and lubricate all items as specified in the section "Service - After First 5 Hours". The 25 hour service interval is the maximum interval recommended between services. Certain applications will require more frequent service intervals. Inspect mower before each use.

### 3.4 SERVICE - ANNUALLY

In addition to the regular maintenance the following components of the finishing mower should be carefully inspected for wear or damage. Replace worn or damaged parts with genuine SNAPPER replacement parts available from an authorized SNAPPER Dealer.



**3.4.1.** Caster Bushings

**3.4.2.** Caster wheel bearings.

**3.4.3.** Mower spindle housing bearings.

**3.4.4.** Driveline U-joint bearing.


**3.4.5.** Driveline rotating shield bearings.

**WARNING**


**Contact with rotating driveline can cause death. A high percentage of driveline injuries occur when safety shielding is missing or not functioning properly. Frequent inspections and proper maintenance is essential for the safety of the operator and others. STOP engine. STOP blades. REMOVE key. Allow all machinery to stop before approaching.**

**3.2.4.1.** Inspect driveline, tractor and mower shields. All shielding must be in place and functioning properly. Be sure the driveline shielding is not damaged and that shields rotate freely on the driveline. See section "Driveline Repair" for instructions.

## SECTION 5 - ADJUSTMENTS & REPAIR



**WARNING**



**DO NOT** attempt any maintenance, adjustments, or service with the engine or blades running. **STOP** engine. **STOP** blades. **SET** brake. **REMOVE** key. Allow all machinery to stop before leaving operators position or approaching mower.

### 4.1 MOWER BELT REPLACEMENT

1. Remove belt cover from mower.
- NOTE:** Belt routing diagram is located on the deck.
2. Carefully roll belt out of groove and off left spindle pulley.
3. Remove old belt.



**WARNING**



Use **CAUTION** removing old belt. Belt is under spring tension.

4. Route new belt as shown in Figure 4.1, leaving belt off of left spindle pulley.
5. Remove all slack from belt and pull towards left pulley. At same time, rotate clockwise allowing belt to roll onto the groove on the pulley.

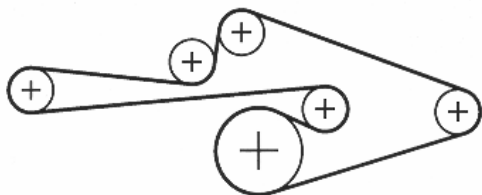



FIGURE 4.1


### 4.2 MOWER BLADE SHARPENING & REPLACEMENT

#### 4.2.1. Blade Wear Limits

1. Inspect blades before each use for signs of excessive wear or damage. See Figure 4.2.



**WARNING**



**DO NOT** use a blade that has worn beyond the wear limit. Blades are sharp and can cause severe injury. Wear heavy gloves when handling or working around blades.

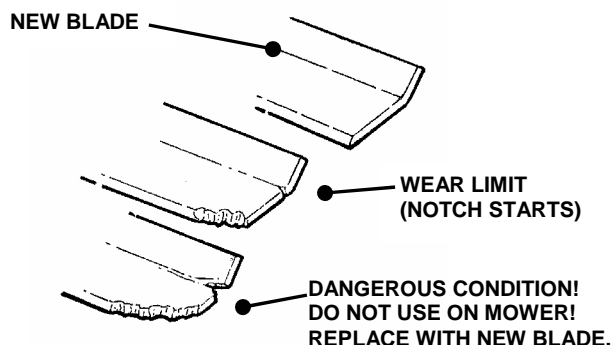


FIGURE 4.2

#### 4.2.2 Blade Sharpening.

1. Inspect blades. If the blade has not been damaged and it has not worn beyond the wear limit it may be sharpened. See Figure 4.2.
2. Remove blade by removing the nut from the blade bolt. Allow the blade bolt, blade washer, blade and four blade spacers to drop down out of the spindle housing. See Figure 4.3.

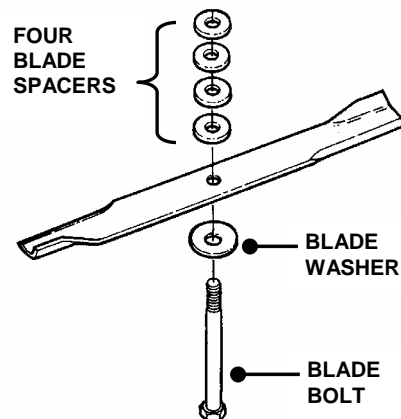


FIGURE 4.3

3. Remove bolt, washer and spacers from blade. Sharpen existing cutting edge only at an angle of 22 to 28 degrees. **DO NOT** sharpen beyond existing cutting edge. See Figure 4.4.

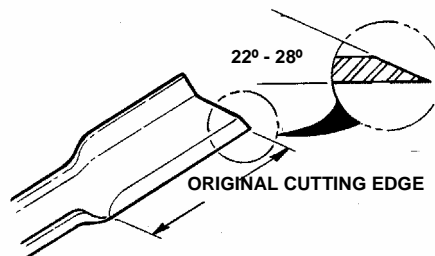


FIGURE 4.4

4. Check the balance of the blade after sharpening. Correct as required by removing material from the end (not cutting edge) of the blade.
5. Install blade paying close attention to the assembly sequence shown in Figure 4.3.
6. Torque blade bolt and nut to 60 to 75 ft. lbs.

#### 4.2.3. MOWER BLADE REPLACEMENT

1. If blades are worn beyond the limit or have been damaged, they must be replaced. See Figure 4.2.
2. Remove blade as instructed in "Mower Blade Sharpening" above.
3. Install new blade following assembly sequence carefully. See Figure 4.3.
4. Torque blade bolt and nut to 60 to 75 ft. lbs.

## SECTION 5 - ADJUSTMENTS & REPAIR

### 4.3 MOWER SPINDLES (Field Serviceable Spindles) BEARING REPLACEMENT

In the event that a spindle bearing requires replacement, the SNAPPER Field Serviceable Spindles have been designed so that no special tools or presses are required.

1. Remove belt. Loosen blade nut and remove. Allow blade bolt, washer, blade and four spacers to drop down out of the spindle housing. See Figure 4.5.

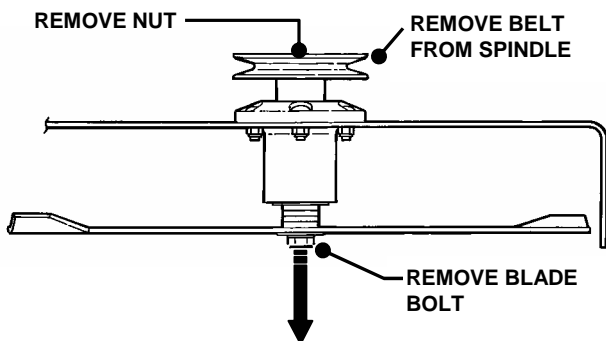


FIGURE 4.5

2. Remove spindle pulley from spindle shaft.  
 3. Locate circular retaining ring on spindle shaft at top bearing. Remove retaining ring. Allow spindle shaft to drop out of housing.  
 4. Top and bottom bearings are now removable. Pull out on inner race to slide bearing from housing. See Figure 4.6.

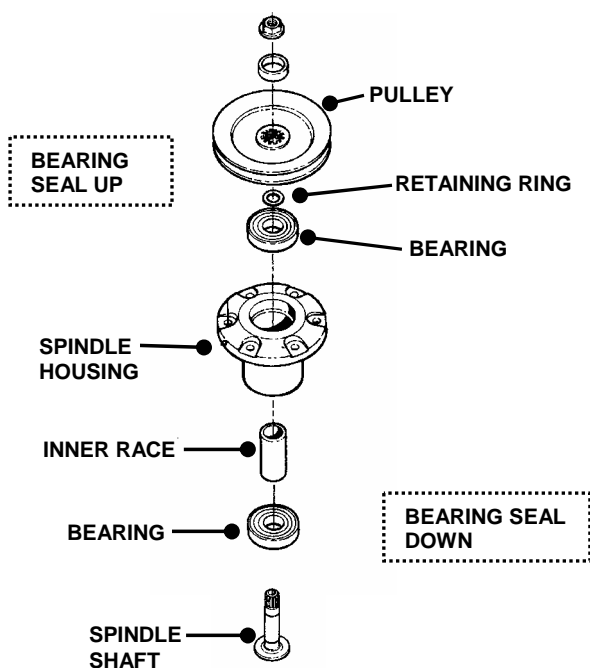


FIGURE 4.6

5. Thoroughly clean all parts removing all old contaminated grease.  
 6. Install new bottom bearing first.

**NOTE:** The bearing is sealed/shielded on one side only. The bottom bearing must be installed with the sealed/shielded side DOWN.

7. Insert spindle shaft up through the bottom bearing. Slide spacer down over spindle shaft.

8. Install new top bearing. Install the top bearing with the seal/shield UP.

9. Slide circular retaining ring down spindle shaft until it fully locks into groove on shaft.

10. Place spindle pulley and spacer on top of spindle shaft.

11. Reinstall blade bolt, washer, blade and four spacers.

12. Torque blade bolt and nut to 60 to 75 ft. lbs.

**IMPORTANT: Spindle housing must be filled with grease before operating mower. Failure to fill housing will cause premature bearing failure.**

13. Pump grease into spindle housing until grease purges from vent on housing.

14. After the first 5 hours of operation, grease spindle housing to insure it is full, then every 25 hours.

### 4.4 DRIVELINE REPAIR

The driveline shielding system is critical to the safety of the operator and others. Inspect the driveline shield and mower shield. If the driveline guard does not rotate freely from the shaft, displays signs of deterioration or damage, or the safety signs are missing or illegible, parts must be repaired or replaced.

#### 4.4.1. Driveline Shield.

The driveline shields will have to be removed to replace shield components, shield bearings, or U-joint bearings.

1. Disconnect driveline from tractor and mower. Slide driveline apart. Work on one end at a time.

**NOTE:** Tractor end flexible cone, shield bearings and plastic tubes are different from those on the mower end.

2. Locate three locking tabs in flexible cone. While pushing down on cone, press in the three locking tabs. Slide cone down on plastic tube when unlocked. See Figure 4.7.

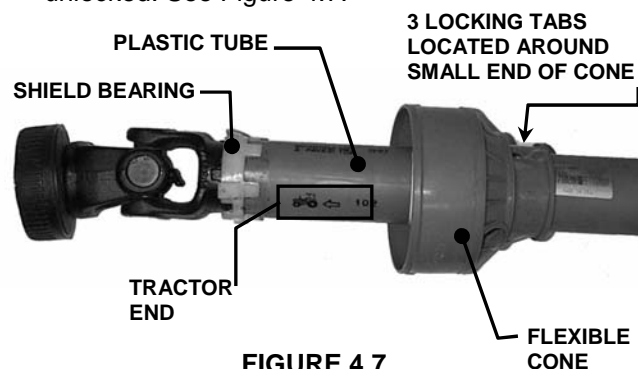


FIGURE 4.7

(Continued on next page)

## SECTION 5 - ADJUSTMENTS & REPAIR

### 4.4 DRIVELINE REPAIR

(Continued from previous page)

3. Remove cone, tube, and the shield bearing from the yoke. Discard worn or damaged components. Replace with new genuine SNAPPER replacement parts.

4. Apply liberal amount of grease to the shield bearing and place in groove on yoke.

5. Slide plastic tube over drive shaft. Align slots in plastic tube with tabs on plastic bearing.

6. Slide flexible cone onto plastic tube. Carefully align cone with plastic bearing while keeping bearing in yoke groove and bearing tabs in plastic tube slots.

7. Pull up and tap on cone until all three locking tabs have locked.

8. Verify that locking tabs are fully seated and locked.

9. The shield should rotate freely from shaft.

**IMPORTANT:** When replacing a driveline guard, make sure that it has the "DANGER ROTATING DRIVELINE" safety label in place before operating. See Figure 4.8.

10. Lubricate after re-assembly.



FIGURE 4.8

# **SNAPPER®**

## **1 YEAR LIMITED WARRANTY**

For one (1) year from purchase date for the original purchaser's commercial or other non-residential use, **SNAPPER**, through any **SNAPPER** dealer will replace, free of charge (except for taxes where applicable), any part or parts found upon examination by the factory at McDonough, Georgia, to be defective in material or workmanship or both.

All transportation costs incurred by the purchaser in submitting material to a **SNAPPER** dealer under this warranty must be paid by the purchaser.

This warranty does not cover any mower or component part that has been damaged as a result of accident, alteration, abuse, improper lubrication, normal wear, or any other cause beyond the control of **SNAPPER**. This warranty does not cover any machine or component that has been altered or modified, changing safety, performance, or durability.

There is no other express warranty.

### **DISCLAIMER OF WARRANTY**

Implied warranties, including those of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose, are limited to one (1) year from purchase date for the original purchaser's use, and up to the extent permitted by law and all implied warranties are excluded. This is the exclusive remedy. Liabilities for consequential damages, under any and all warranties are excluded.

Some states do not allow limitations on how long an implied warranty lasts, or do not allow the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages, so the above limitation or exclusion may not apply to you.

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

**WARNING: THE USE OF REPLACEMENT PARTS OTHER THAN GENUINE SNAPPER PARTS MAY IMPAIR THE SAFETY OF SNAPPER PRODUCTS AND WILL VOID ANY LIABILITY AND WARRANTY BY SNAPPER ASSOCIATED WITH THE USE OF SUCH PARTS.**

**IMPORTANT:** Please fill out the attached **SNAPPER** Product Registration Card immediately and mail to:  
**Snapper's Product Registration Center, P.O. Box 777, McDonough, Georgia. 30253**

# Safety Instructions & Operator's Manual for

# **SNAPPER®**

## **73" FINISHING MOWER**

## **CATEGORY ONE**

## **3 POINT HITCH**



### **WARNING:**

The engine exhaust from this product contains chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer, birth defects or other reproductive harm.

**SNAPPER®** McDonough, GA., 30253 U.S.A.