

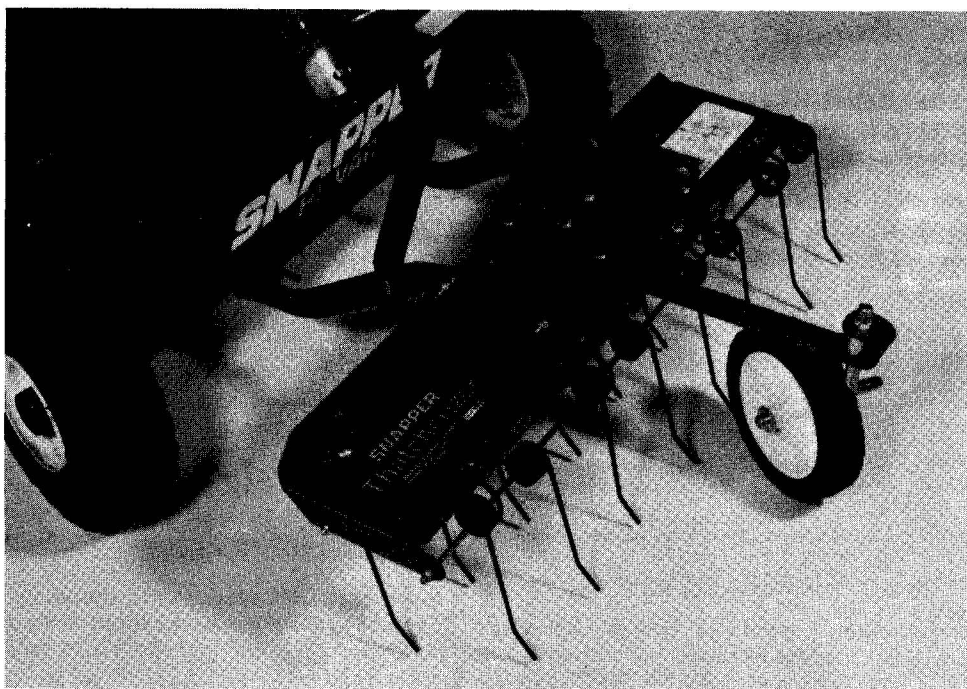
SNAPPER

POWER EQUIPMENT

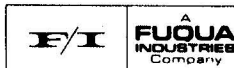
THATCHERIZER™

**Assembly • Operation • Maintenance
Instructions**

KIT # 6-0948
U.S. PATENT NO. 4,317,327



Snapper Power Equipment
McDonough, GA • 30253



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Snapper Instruction 14118
(BHL-1426)

INTRODUCTION

Congratulations on your purchase of the Snapper Thatcherizer. It will effectively dislodge excessive thatch from your lawn where it can be vacuumed up into the grass catcher on mowers so equipped. Thatch is a layer of stems, clippings, runners, roots and leaves that have not decayed. It builds up between the ground surface and the green part of the grass. Excessive thatch prevents the proper amount of air, water, and fertilizer from reaching the root structure. In areas where thatch is thick, it can kill the grass and provide a host for insects and turf disease.

In addition to de-thatching, your Thatcherizer can help you perform other lawn care duties. For example, you can use it for "scratching" the surface of the soil for over-seeding, to give the seed a better chance of germinating. Also use it to comb matted grass upright before mowing for a smoother, more even cut. Your Thatcherizer will do a good job of dislodging and raking up that thin layer of pine straw which often remains partially embedded in the soil or is entwined in the grass. Vacuum up heavy accumulations of pine straw or leaves before using your Thatcherizer.

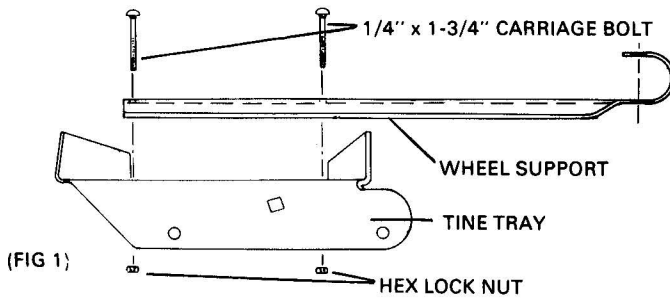
After assembly, see the adjustment section of this manual (or the decal on the Thatcherizer) to properly adjust the tines for best results.

ASSEMBLY

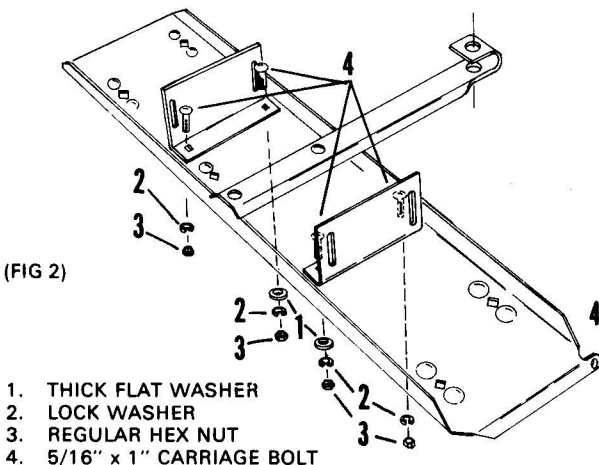
NOTE 1: The "ears" extending from the tine tray are on the **front** of the Thatcherizer.

NOTE 2: Lock nuts must be used for certain portions of the assembly to resist loosening. They require more torque while tightening. Regular hex nuts can be threaded on with your fingers until they are seated.

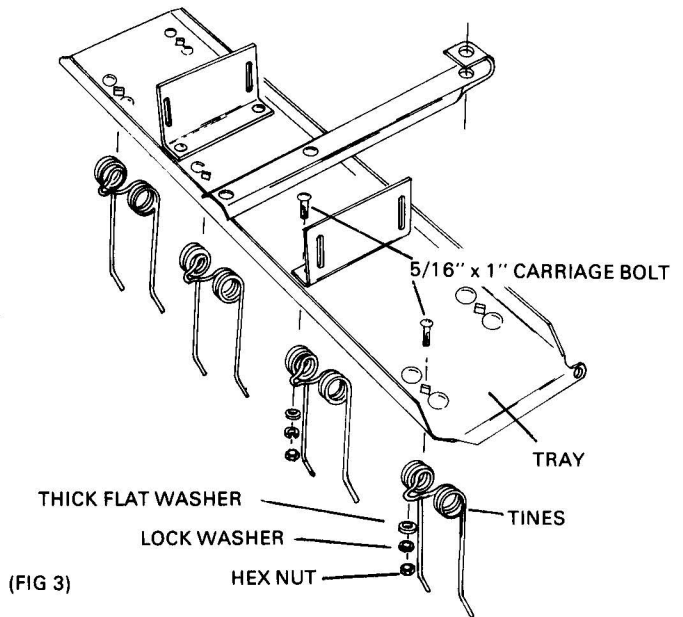
1. (FIG. 1) Attach the wheel support to the tine tray using two 1/4" x 1-3/4" carriage bolts and hex lock nuts. The notches on the wheel support must rest in the notches of the tine tray. **DO NOT OVER-TIGHTEN.**



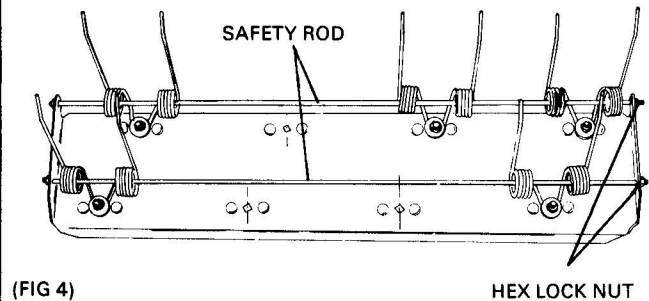
2. (FIG 2) Attach the tray brackets to the tine tray as shown, with offsets outward, using four 5/16" x 1" carriage bolts, two thick flat washers, as shown, and four lock washers and hex nuts. **FINGER TIGHTEN ONLY.**



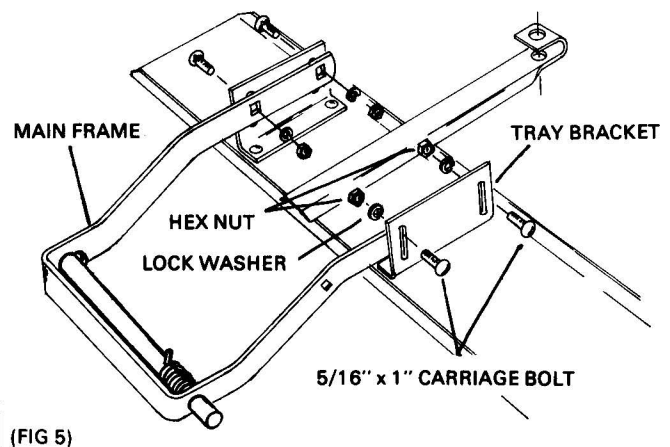
3. (FIG 3) Attach the thatching tines to the tine tray, using the 5/16" x 1" carriage bolts, thick flat washers, lock washers, and hex nuts. Attach two tines to two of the tray bracket bolts, as shown. **IMPORTANT:** Make sure the loop between the tine coils nests inside the projections on the tine tray.



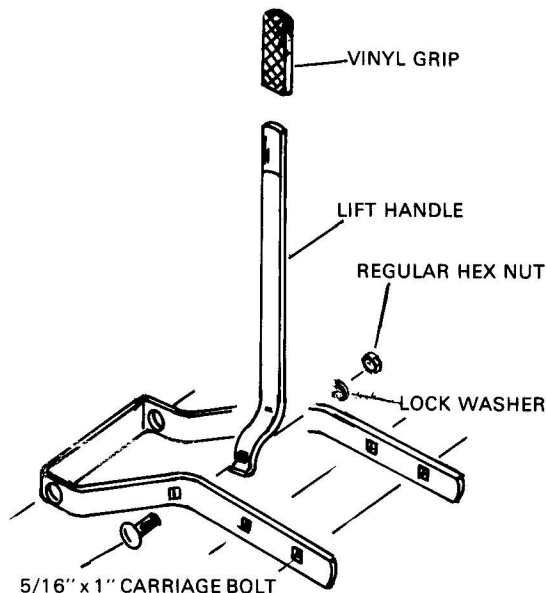
4. (FIG 4) Insert the safety rods through the holes in the tray and tine coils. Tighten with 1/4" hex lock nut on each end until the rod cannot move from side to side.



5. (FIG 5) Mount the main frame to the inside of the tray brackets using four 5/16" x 1" carriage bolts, lock washers, and hex nuts. **TIGHTEN ALL BOLTS SECURELY.**

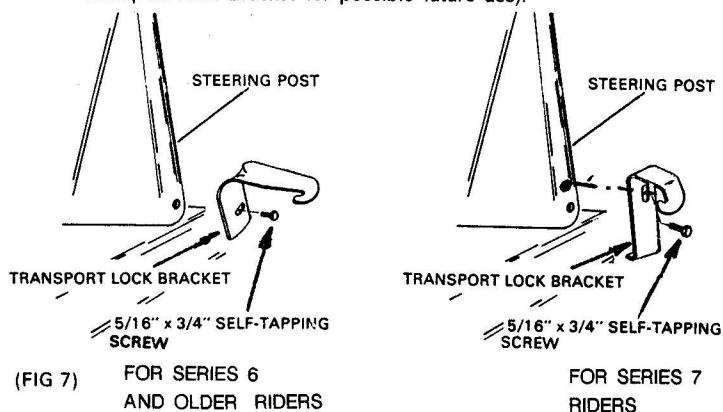


6. (FIG 6) Attach lift handle to the right side of the mounting frame as shown, using a 5/16" x 1" carriage bolt, lock washer and regular hex nut. Slip vinyl grip over top of lift handle.



(FIG 6)

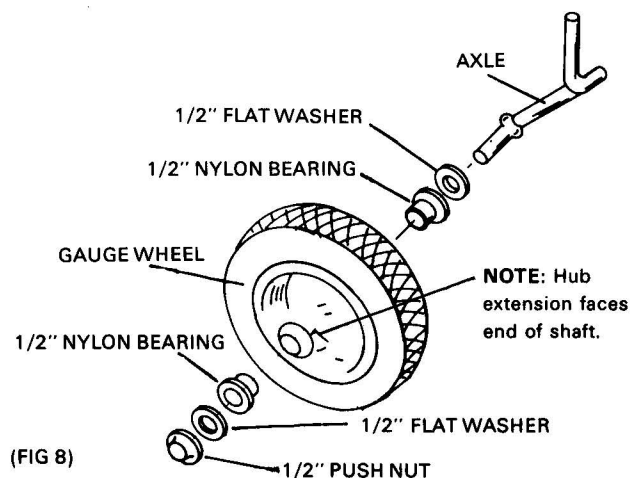
7. Refer to Figure 7 below and determine which of the two transport Lock Brackets is required for your particular Rider. Attach the transport Lock Bracket to the base of the steering post using a 5/16" x 3/4" Hex Head Self Tapping Screw as shown. (Note-Store the extra Transport Lock Bracket for possible future use).



(FIG 7) FOR SERIES 6 AND OLDER RIDERS

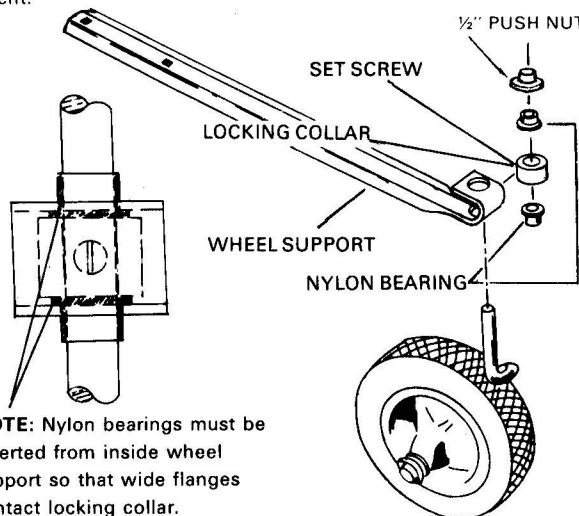
FOR SERIES 7 RIDERS

8. (FIG 8) Insert a 1/2" nylon bearing into each side of the gauge wheel. Mount the gauge wheel on the axle as shown using 1/2" flat washers on both sides of the wheel, then drive a 1/2" push nut over the axle end.



(FIG 8)

9. (FIG 9) Position the locking collar with the 1/2" axle bearings inside the wheel support with adjusting set screw facing forward. Slide the axle (with gauge wheel attached) through the wheel support and the locking collar; drive a 1/2" push nut over the axle end on the top side then tighten the set screw slightly to prevent the axle from falling out during final adjustment.



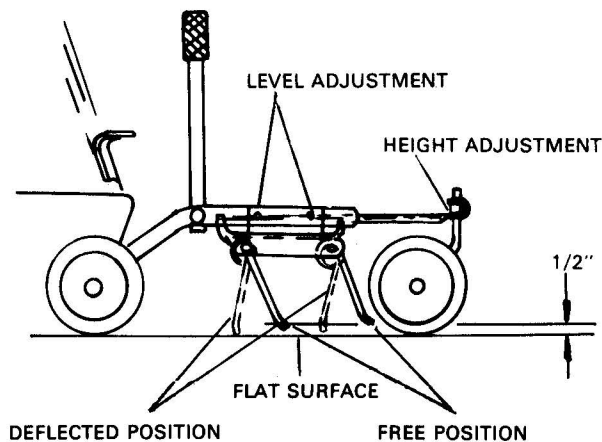
NOTE: Nylon bearings must be inserted from inside wheel support so that wide flanges contact locking collar.

(FIG 9)

MOUNTING AND ADJUSTING

NOTE: For most lawns, adjust the Thatcherizer as follows: (FIG 10)

1. Select a smooth flat surface such as a driveway, sidewalk, garage floor, etc. Attach the Thatcherizer to the rider by placing the main frame between the mounting tabs on front of mower and inserting the rod on spring side of frame into mounting tab. Then slide the rod until spring is fully compressed and rod is flush with other end of frame. Insert frame between tabs and release rod, locking frame to tractor.
2. Align the gauge wheel directly under the gauge wheel support.
3. Loosen the hex nuts on the four mount straps, and the gauge wheel set screw. Adjust the tine tray to place the tine tips approximately 1/2" above the flat surface when in the free position and to touch the flat surface when manually deflected.
4. Tighten all hex nuts and gauge wheel set screw.



(FIG 10)

WHEN TO USE

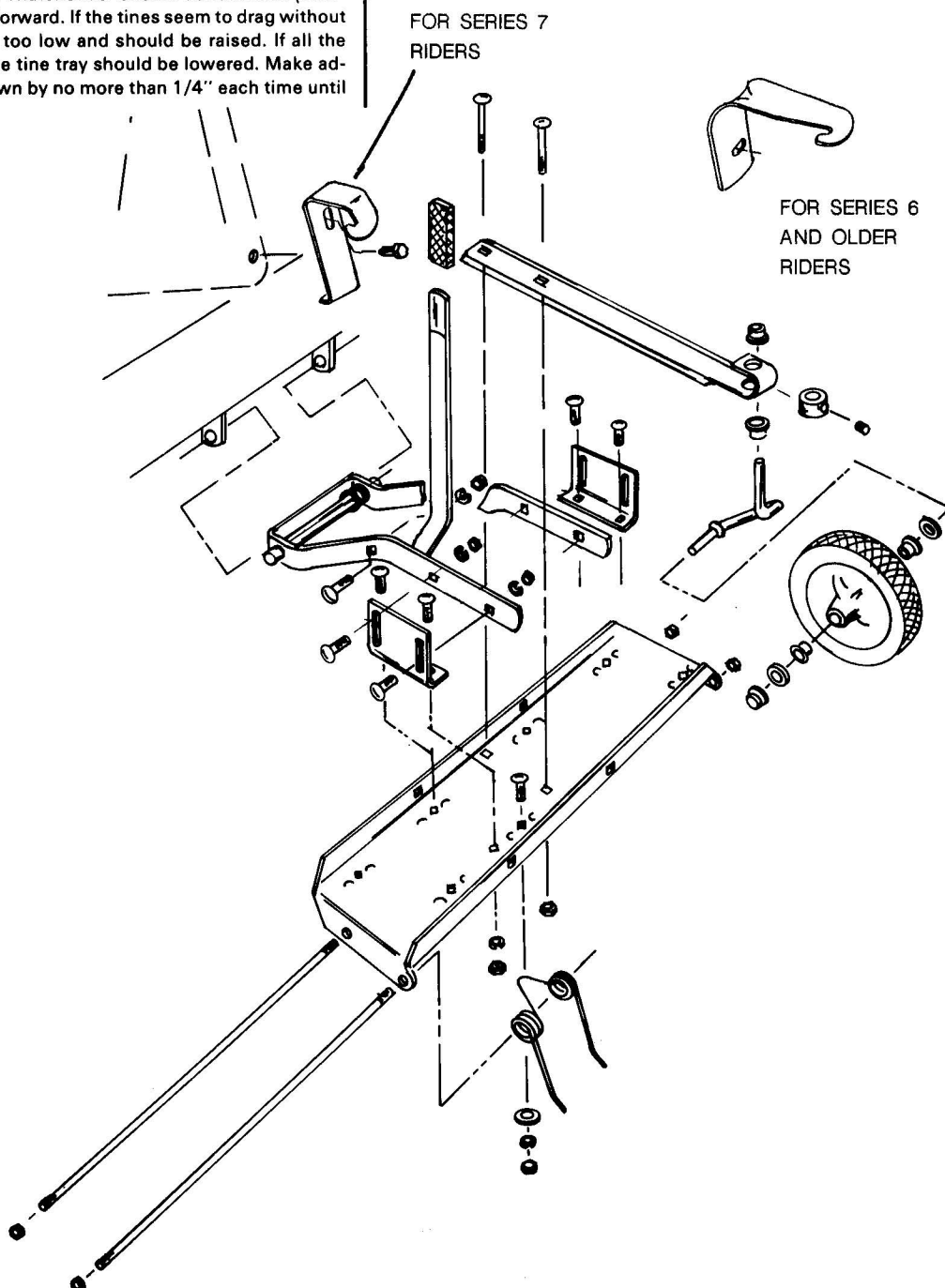
Every lawn is different, so there is not a *rule* for when to use the Thatcherizer. Some lawns are very dense and the Thatcherizer should be used about every third or fourth cutting. Lawns that are less dense would require less de-thatching. In general, you want to leave a very small amount of thatch (about 1/8" thick) in your lawn. This is enough to shade the grass roots from direct sunlight, yet allow plenty of air, water, and fertilizer to get to the roots for nourishment.

For best results, vary your mowing and de-thatching pattern from one cutting to the next.

Tine Action — Grass should be less than 3" tall for proper tine action. When in use, all the tines on the Thatcherizer should deflect back (independently) and "flip" the thatch forward. If the tines seem to drag without flipping forward, the tine tray is too low and should be raised. If all the tines stay in the free position, the tine tray should be lowered. Make adjustments as necessary up or down by no more than 1/4" each time until proper results are achieved.

MAINTENANCE

The Thatcherizer is maintenance free. However, as with any steel product, it can rust. For rust on the tines, apply a light coat of oil. For rust on the trays or mounting brackets, just sand lightly and coat with enamel. Always store the Thatcherizer in a dry area.



Should the need arise for replacement parts, refer to the illustrations on pages 2 and 3 in this manual for correct part description, then order through any authorized Snapper dealer.

SNAPPER THATCHERIZER