

Thank you for purchasing an American-built product.

Owner's Manual

ASSEMBLY
OPERATION
MAINTENANCE
PARTS LIST

Important:

Read Safety Rules and Instructions Carefully

21" SELF-PROPELLED ROTARY MOWERS

Model Numbers 12871-7 12872-7

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Dear Customer,

So often throughout the year we are all in a rush to meet our daily obligations.
However, we at YARD-MAN COMPANY are taking a quick moment out to say.
"Thank you for your business."

Sincerely, YARD-MAN COMPANY



INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN WITH THIS SYMBOL ARE FOR PERSONAL SAFETY. BE SURE TO FOLLOW THEM.

LIMITED WARRANTY

For two years from the date of original retail purchase, YARD-MAN COMPANY will either repair or replace, at its option, free of charge, F.O.B. factory or authorized service firm, any part or parts found to be defective in material or workmanship. Transportation charges for the movement of any power equipment unit or attachment are the responsibility of the purchaser. Transportation charges for any parts submitted for replacement under this warranty must be paid by the purchaser unless such return is requested by YARD-MAN COMPANY.

This warranty will not apply to any part which has become inoperative due to misuse, excessive use, accident, neglect, improper maintenance, alterations, or unless the unit has been operated and maintained in accordance with the instructions furnished. This warranty does not apply to the engine, Peerless components, the motor, battery, battery charger or component parts thereof. Please refer to the applicable manufacturer's warranty on these items.

Warranty on units used commercially is limited to sixty (60) days.

Warranty service is available through your local authorized service dealer or distributor. If you do not know the dealer or distributor in your area, please write to the Customer Service Department of YARD-MAN.

The return of a complete unit will not be accepted by the factory unless prior written permission has been extended by YARD-MAN.

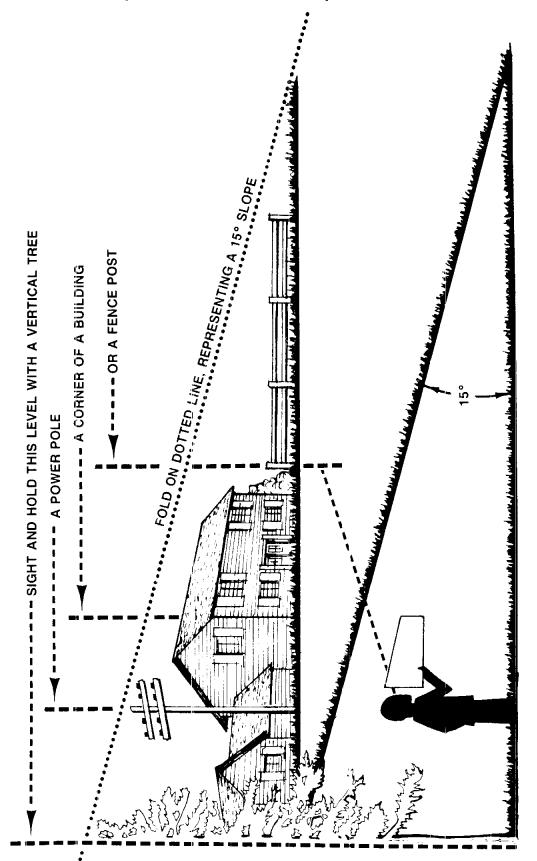
This warranty gives you specific legal rights. You may also have other rights which vary from state to state.

WARNING: This unit is equipped with an internal combustion engine and should not be used on or near any unimproved forest-covered, brush-covered or grass-covered land unless the engine's exhaust system is equipped with a spark arrester meeting applicable local or state laws (if any). If a spark arrester is used, it should be maintained in effective working order by the operator.

In the State of California the above is required by law (Section 4442 of the California Public Resources Code). Other states may have similar laws. Federal laws apply on federal lands. A spark arrester muffler is available at your nearest engine authorized service center.

SLOPE GAUGE

(Keep this sheet in a safe place for future reference.)





Do not mow on inclines with a slope in excess of 15 degrees (a rise of approximately 2% feet every 10 feet). A riding mower could overturn and cause serious injury. If operating a walk-behind mower on such a slope, it is extremely difficult to maintain your footing and you could slip, resulting in serious injury

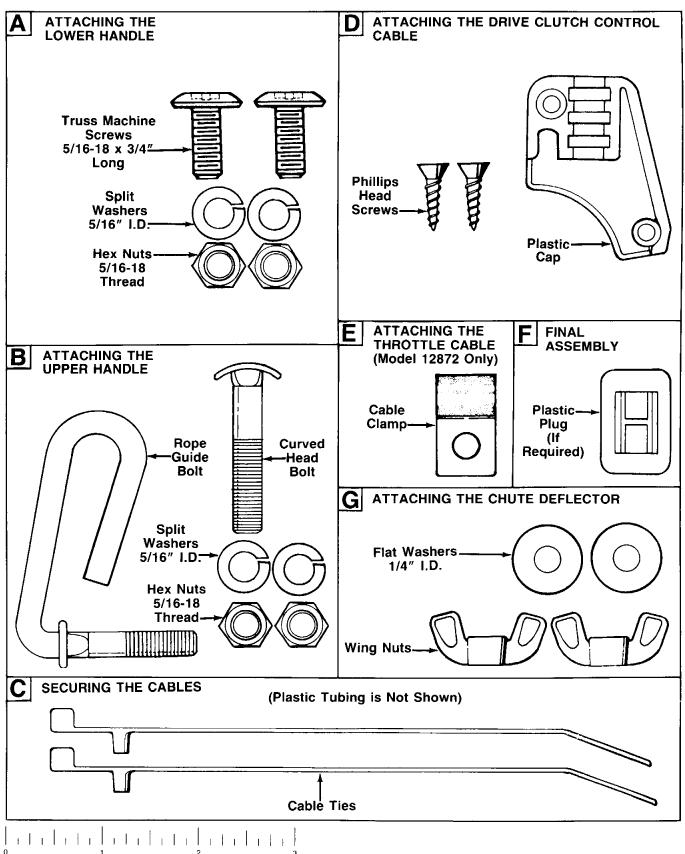
Operate WALK-BEHIND mowers across the face of slopes, never up and down slopes. Operate RIDING mowers up and down slopes, never across the face of slopes.

CONTENTS OF HARDWARE PACK

Remove this sheet from your owner's manual and lay the hardware on the illustration for identification purposes.

After assembly, keep the Slope Gauge which is on the reverse side of this sheet for future use.

(Hardware pack may contain extra items which are not used on your unit.)



4

INCHES

-Cut Alc , This Line

IMPORTANT

RULES FOR SAFE OPERATION



THIS SYMBOL POINTS OUT IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS WHICH, IF NOT FOLLOWED, COULD ENDANGER THE PERSONAL SAFETY AND/OR PROPERTY OF YOURSELF AND OTHERS. READ AND FOLLOW ALL INSTRUCTIONS IN THIS MANUAL BEFORE ATTEMPTING TO OPERATE YOUR LAWN MOWER. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THESE INSTRUCTIONS MAY RESULT IN PERSONAL INJURY. WHEN YOU SEE THIS SYMBOL— HEED ITS WARNING.





Your lawn mower was built to be operated according to the rules for safe operation in this manual. As with any type of power equipment, carelessness or error on the part of the operator can result in serious injury. If you violate any of these rules, you may cause serious injury to yourself or others.



TRAINING

- Read this owner's manual carefully in its entirety before attempting to assemble or operate this machine. Be completely familiar with the controls and the proper use of this machine before operating it. Keep this manual in a safe place for future and regular reference and for ordering replacement parts.
- 2 Your rotary mower is a precision piece of power equipment, not a plaything. Therefore, exercise extreme caution at all times.
- 3 Never allow children to operate a power mower. Only persons well acquainted with these rules of safe operation should be allowed to use your mower.
- 4 Keep the area of operation clear of all persons, particularly small children and pets. Stop engine when they are in the vicinity of your mower to help prevent blade contact or thrown object injury. Although the area of operation should be completely cleared of foreign objects, an object may have been overlooked and could be accidently thrown by the mower in any direction and cause serious personal injury to the operator or any others allowed in the area.



PREPARATION

- 1. Thoroughly inspect the area where the equipment is to be used. Remove all stones, sticks, wire, bones and other foreign objects which could be picked up and thrown by the mower in any direction and cause serious personal injury to the operator or any others allowed in the area.
- 2 Always wear safety glasses or eye shields during operation or while performing an adjustment or repair, to protect eyes from foreign objects that may be thrown from the machine in any direction.
- 3 Wear sturdy, rough-soled work shoes and close-fitting slacks and shirts to avoid entanglement in the moving parts. Never operate a unit in bare feet, sandals, or sneakers.
- 4 Check the fuel before starting the engine. Gasoline is an extremely flammable fuel. Do not fill the gasoline tank indoors, while the engine is running, or until engine has been allowed to cool for two minutes after running. Replace gasoline cap securely and wipe off any spilled gasoline before starting the engine as it may cause a fire or explosion.
- 5 Disengage the self-propelled mechanism or drive clutch on units so equipped before starting the engine.
- The blade control handle is a safety device. Never attempt to bypass its operation. Doing so makes the safety device inoperative and may result in personal injury through contact with the rotating blade. The blade control handle must operate easily in both directions.
- 7 Never attempt to make a wheel or cutting height adjustment while the engine is running.
- 8 Never operate the equipment in wet grass. Always be sure of your footing. A slip and fall can cause serious personal injury. Keep a firm hold on the handle and walk, never run. Mow only in daylight or in good artificial light.

9. For your safety, use the slope gauge included as part of this manual to measure slopes before operating this unit on a sloped or hilly area. If the slope is greater than 15° as shown on the slope gauge, do not operate this unit on that area or serious injury could result.



OPERATION

- Do not change the engine governor settings or overspeed the engine. Excessive engine speeds are dangerous.
- Do not put hands or feet near or under rotating parts. Keep clear of the discharge opening at all times as the rotating blade can cause injury.
- 3. Stop the blade when crossing gravel drives, walks or roads.
- 4. After striking a foreign object, stop the engine, remove the wire from the spark plug, and thoroughly inspect the mower for any damage. Repair the damage before restarting and operating the mower.
- If the equipment should start to vibrate abnormally, stop the engine and check immediately for the cause. Vibration is generally a warning of trouble.
- 6. Shut the engine off and wait until the blade comes to a complete stop before removing the grass catcher or unclogging the chute. The cutting blade continues to rotate for a few seconds after the engine is shut off. Never place any part of the body in the blade area until you are sure the blade has stopped rotating.
- Before cleaning, repairing or inspecting make certain the blade and all moving parts have stopped. Disconnect the spark plug wire, and keep the wire away from the spark plug to prevent accidental starting.
- 8. Do not run the engine indoors.
- Mow across the face of slopes, never up-and-down. Exercise extreme caution when changing direction on slopes. Do not mow excessively steep slopes. Always be sure of your focting. A slip and fall care cause serious personal injury.
- Never operate inower without proper guards, plates or other safety protective devices in place.



MAINTENANCE AND STORAGE

- Check the blace and engine mounting bolts at frequent intervals for proper lightness.
- Keep all nuis bolts, and screws light to be sure the equipment is in safe working condition.
- Never store the equipment with gasoline in the tank inside of a building where furnes may reach an open flame or spark. Allow the engine to bool before storing in any enclosure.
- To reduce fire hazard keep the engine free of grass leaves, or excessive crease.
- Check the grass catcher pag frequently for wear or deterioration. For safety protection, replace only with new bag meeting original equipment specifications.

IMPORTANT: This unit is shipped WITHOUT GASOLINE or OIL. After assembly, service engine with gasoline

and oil as instructed in the separate engine manual packed with your unit.



NOTE: Reference to right or left hand side of the mower is observed from the operating position.

ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS

Tools Required for Assembly

- (1) Phillips Head Screwdriver
- (1) 1/2" Wrench*
- (1) 5/16" Wrench or Nutdriver*
- (1) 7/16" Wrench*
- *Or one 6" Adjustable Wrench.

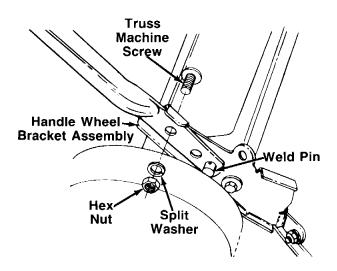


FIGURE 1.

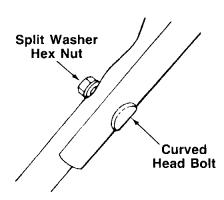


FIGURE 2.

UNPACKING

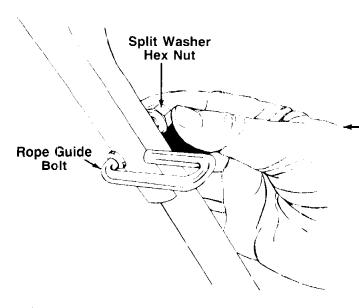
- 1. Remove the lawn mower from the carton by opening the top flaps and lifting the unit out. Be careful of the staples. Make certain all parts and literature have been removed from the carton before the carton is discarded.
- 2. Disconnect and ground the spark plug wire against the engine. Check beneath the deck for any cardboard packaging. Remove if present.
- 3. Stretch out all control cables and place on the floor. Be careful not to bend or kink the cables at any time during assembly.
- 4. Remove page four from this manual and lay the contents of the hardware pack on the illustration for identification.

ATTACHING THE LOWER HANDLE (Hardware A)

- 1. For shipping purposes your mower is set with the wheels in the lowest cutting height position. Raise the mower to the highest setting for assembly of lower handle.
- 2. Attach the lower handle by placing the bottom holes in the lower handle over the weld pins on the handle wheel bracket assemblies on the rear of the deck. Make certain the instruction label on the lower handle can be read from the operating position.
- 3. Secure the upper portion of the handle wheel bracket assembly to the lower handle using truss machine screw, 5/16" split washer and hex nut. See figure 1. Repeat on other side.

ATTACHING THE UPPER HANDLE (Hardware B)

- 1. Place the upper handle in position over the lower handle. The label on the throttle control housing and the control lever must be facing up.
- 2. Secure the left hand side of upper handle using the curved head bolt, split washer and hex nut as shown in figure 2.



Insert the rope guide bolt through the right hand
 side of upper and lower handle. See figure 3.
 Secure with split washer and hex nut, finger tight only.

FIGURE 3.

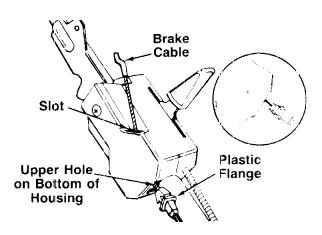


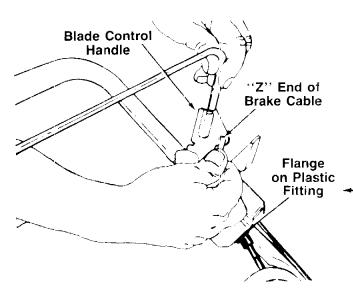
FIGURE 4.

ATTACHING THE BRAKE CABLE

- The brake cable is attached to the engine, and has a "Z" fitting on the loose end. Route the brake cable below the lower handle. Place end of cable into the upper hole on the bottom of the control housing, and through the slot as shown. The angle of the plastic flange must be positioned downward
 as shown in figure 4. Be careful not to bend or kink the cable at any time.
- 2. Push the plastic fitting until it locks into the control housing.



Brake cable must be assembled as shown for proper blade brake operation.



 Hook the 'Z' end of the brake cable into the hole in the blade control handle from the inside to the outside as shown in figure 5.

FIGURE 5.

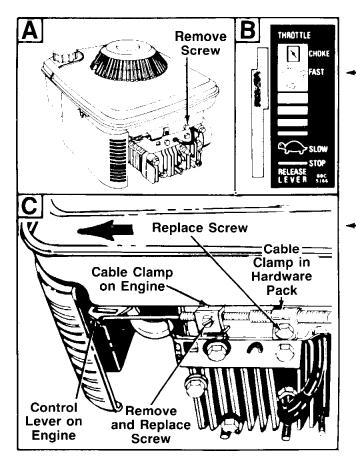


FIGURE 6.-Model 12872

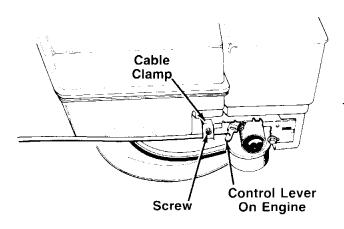


FIGURE 7.--Model 12871

ATTACHING THE THROTTLE CABLE (Hardware E) Model 12872 Only:

- 1. Using a 7/16" wrench, remove the screw on the —engine shown in figure 6A.
- 2. Move throttle control lever until it stops in FAST position (do not push all the way forward to CHOKE position). See figure 6B.
- 3. The throttle control cable is attached to the upper handle. Route the throttle control cable under the lower handle and inside the handle wheel bracket assembly. Hook the "Z" end of the throttle control cable into the hole in the control lever on the engine. See figure 6C.
- 4. Using a 5/16" wrench or nutdriver, remove the screw on the cable clamp shown in figure 6C. Slip the control casing under the clamp. Replace the screw (casing should be above the screw), but do not tighten screw (cable must still move freely beneath the clamp).
- 5. Slide the control lever on the engine as far toward the outside of the engine as it will go easily (just until resistance is felt) as shown in figure 6C. (Do not force it into the extreme outside position, which is the CHOKE position.) Tighten the screw to secure the throttle control cable in this position.
- Loosen the screw on the clamp on the side of the engine. Slip the cable casing under the clamp to secure the cable away from the muffler. Be careful not to bend or kink the cable. Tighten the screw.
- Secure cable casing to the front of engine with cable clamp provided in hardware pack and screw removed from engine in step 1. Do not overtighten.

ATTACHING THE THROTTLE CABLE Model 12871 Only:

- Place the throttle control lever on the handle in FAST position.
- 2. The throttle control cable is attached to the upper handle. Route the throttle control cable under the lower handle and inside the handle wheel bracket assembly. Hook the "Z" end of the throttle control cable into the control lever on the engine as —shown in figure 7.
- Loosen (do not remove) the screw on the cable clamp shown in figure 7. Slip the control casing under the clamp (cable must move freely beneath the clamp).
- 4. Place the control lever on the engine in the full open position by pushing it as far toward the rear of the unit as it will go. Tighten the screw on the cable clamp to secure the cable in this position.

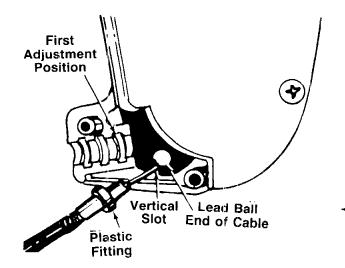


FIGURE 8.

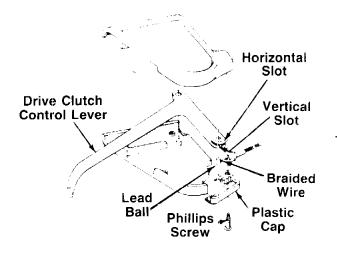


FIGURE 9.

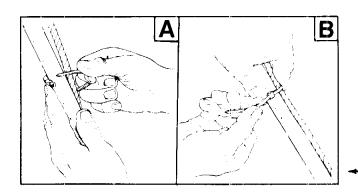


FIGURE 10.

ATTACHING THE DRIVE CLUTCH CONTROL CABLE (Hardware E)

The drive clutch control cable is attached to the deck. At ach the cable to the lever in the clutch control housing, located in the middle of the upper handle, as follows.

 Place the lead ball end of the cable into the fitting provided in the end of the clutch control lever. Slip the braided wire into the vertical slot as shown in —figure 8.

- 2. Slide the braided wire around in the horizontal slot. See figure 9.
- 3. Place the plastic fitting on the control cable into the first adjustment position in the clutch control housing. See figure 8.
- Secure the plastic cap to the clutch control housing using the two Phillips head screws. See figure



Drive clutch adjustment must be checked before the unit is operated, as described in the operation section.

SECURING THE CABLES (Hardware C)

Secure all control cables to the left side of the handle as follows.

- A. Open one end of the plastic tubing provided. Place the control cables inside, starting at one end and working them inside the tubing.
- B. Insert posts on cable ties into holes provided on the lower handle, one near the top and one near the bottom of lower handle. The holes may be on either the inside or outside of the handle. See figure 10A.
- C. Secure the plastic tubing to the handles with the ——cable ties. See figure 10B.
- D. Trim excess ends of cable ties.

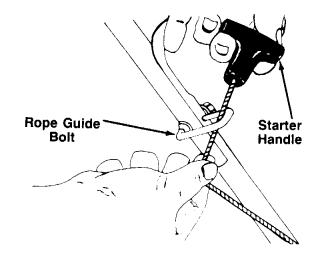


FIGURE 11.

ATTACHING THE STARTER ROPE

- 1. The starter rope is inside the top of the engine. Additional rope may be wound around the starter handle. If so, unwind the rope from the handle.
- 2. With the spark plug wire disconnected and grounded, depress the blade control handle and pull the rope out of the engine.
- 3. Slip the starter rope into the rope guide bolt as —shown in figure 11.
- 4. Tighten the hex nut on the rope guide bolt securely.

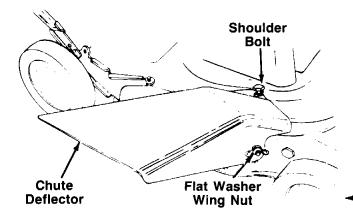


FIGURE 12.

ATTACHING THE CHUTE DEFLECTOR (Hardware G)

- Attach the chute deflector by first placing it over the rear bolt in the side of the deck. Then slide the notch in the top of the deflector around the shoulder bolt on top of the deck. Slide the notch in the side of the deflector around the front bolt in the side of the deck.
- Secure the front of the deflector to the bolt protruding from the deck with one flat washer and —wing nut. See figure 12.

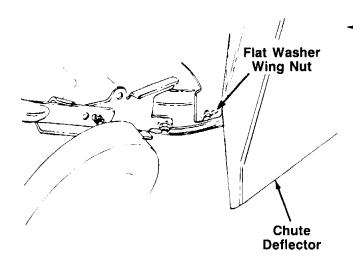


FIGURE 13.

 Secure the back of the deflector in the same manner. See figure 13.



Never operate your unit without either the side chute deflector or entire rear discharge chute and grass catcher assembly (optional equipment) in place.



A grass catcher kit is available which will convert your mower from side to rear discharge. Order model number 19074.

FINAL ASSEMBLY OF MOWER (Hardware F)

- 1. If plastic plug is needed and is not already assembled, insert plastic plug into hole in the top rear of the deck by slipping one end of plug into hole, then pressing down on the other end of plug. Use a soft hammer if necessary.
- 2. Attach hub caps to the front wheels by lining up the four tabs on the hub caps with the four holes in the wheels. Push to lock in position.
- 3. Make certain **all** nuts and bolts are tightened securely.

CONTROLS

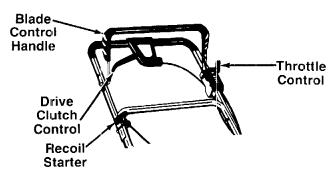


FIGURE 14.

BLADE CONTROL HANDLE

WARNING
THIS CONTROL MECHANISM IS A
SAFETY DEVICE NEVER ATTEMPT
TO BYPASS ITS OPERATIONS

The blade control handle is located on the upper handle of the mower. See figure 14. The blade control handle must be depressed in order to operate the unit. Release the blade control handle to stop the engine and blade.



The blade will be rotating whenever the engine is running.

THROTTLE CONTROL

The throttle control is located on the left side of the upper handle. It is used to regulate the engine speed.



The throttle control cannot be used to stop the engine.

RECOIL STARTER

The recoil starter handle is attached to the handle. See figure 14. Stand behind the unit in the operating position to start the unit.

DRIVE CLUTCH CONTROL

Squeezing the drive clutch control engages the drive mechanism to the rear wheels. Releasing the clutch control stops the rear wheels from driving. Release the drive clutch control to slow down when negotiating an obstacle, making a turn or stopping. See figure 14.

OPERATION



FIGURE 15.

Keep hands and feet away from the chute area on cutting deck. See figure 15.



For shipping purposes your mower is set with the wheels in a low cutting height position. For best results raise the cutting position until it is determined which height is best for your lawn. See cutting height adjustment section.

GAS AND OIL FILL-UP

Service the engine with gasoline and oil as instructed in the separate engine manual packed with your mower. Read instructions carefully.



Never fill fuel tank indoors, with engine running or until the engine has been allowed to cool for at least two minutes after running.

BEFORE STARTING

 Before each use, check for proper drive clutch operation by performing the following before starting the engine:

With the drive clutch control released, push mower forward. It should move freely. **Pull mower backward**. It should move freely.

If it does not and the rear wheels tend to lock up, the clutch may not be releasing completely. Do not start the engine until corrections have been made. Check the control cable for severe bend, kinks and binding, or grass build-up in the pulley groove. Correct and adjust as required.

- 2. Attach spark plug wire to spark plug.
- 3. **Model 12872 Only:** The fuel shut-off valve is located beneath the fuel tank. The fuel shut-off valve should be in the open position. See figure 16. Open fuel shut-off valve if it is closed.

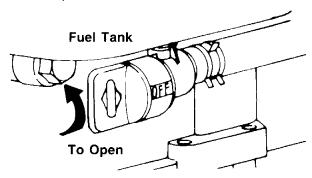


FIGURE 16.—Model 12872 Only

TO START ENGINE AND ENGAGE BLADE



When starting the unit for the first time, face the mower against a solid object such as a wall, fence, etc. Start the unit, and if it shows any signs of motion with the drive clutch control disengaged, shut the engine off immediately. Check the position of the drive clutch control cable. The plastic fitting must be assembled in the first adjustment position inside the housing, all the way to the right, as shown in figure 8.

1. **Model 12871:** Move throttle control lever to FAST or START position.

Model 12872: Move the throttle control lever to CHOKE position.



A warm engine may not require choking.

- 2. **Model 12871 Only:** Prime engine as instructed in the separate engine manual packed with your unit.
- 3. Standing behind the unit, depress the blade control handle and hold it against the upper handle.
- Grasp the recoil starter handle and pull back rapidly, extending rope fully. Return it slowly to the rope guide bolt.
- 5. After engine starts, move throttle control to FAST or desired engine speed.



If any problems are encountered, refer to the Trouble Shooting Chart on page 22.



Never operate your unit without either the side chute deflector or entire rear discharge chute and grass catcher assembly (optional equipment) in place.

TO STOP ENGINE AND BLADE

1. Release the blade control handle to stop the engine and blade.



The blade continues to rotate for a few seconds after the engine is shut off.

2. Disconnect the spark plug wire and ground it against the engine to prevent accidental starting while equipment is unattended.

USING YOUR ROTARY MOWER

Be sure that lawn is clear of stones, sticks, wire, or other objects which could damage lawn mower or engine. Such objects could be accidently thrown by the mower in any direction and cause serious personal injury to the operator and others.

Operate a new engine at intermediate speeds and light load for the first few hours as you would a new automotive engine.

For the best results, do not cut wet grass because it tends to stick to the underside of the mower, preventing proper discharge of grass clippings, and could cause you to slip and fall. New grass, thick grass or wet grass may require a narrower cut. Blade speed should be adjusted to the condition of the lawn.

When using the side discharge mower, the best mowing pattern is one that allows the clippings to discharge towards the uncut part of the lawn. This permits recutting of the clippings to further pulverize them. When cutting high weeds, discharge towards cut portion, then recut at right angles to first direction

For best results, cut off one-third or less of the total length of the grass. Lawn should be cut in the fall as long as there is growth.

This mower is designed to be operated at full throttle to give you the best cut and do the most effective job of bagging the cut grass.



If you strike a foreign object, stop the engine. Remove wire from spark plug, thoroughly inspect the mower for any damage, and repair the damage before restarting and operating the mower. Extensive vibration of the mower during operation is an indication of damage. The unit should be promptly inspected and repaired.

ADJUSTMENTS



Do not at any time make any adjustment to lawn mower without first stopping engine and disconnecting spark plug wire.

DRIVE CLUTCH CONTROL ADJUSTMENT

If the unit does not self-propel with the drive clutch control engaged, remove the plastic cap from beneath the drive clutch control housing. Move the plastic fitting on the control cable to the next adjustment position on the left. Reassemble the plastic cap and retest. See figure 17.

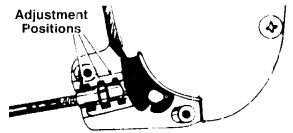


FIGURE 17.

CUTTING HEIGHT ADJUSTMENT

The height adjustment handle is located on the left side of the deck. The handle may be placed in one of nine cutting height positions. Push the handle to the left and then either forward to lower the cutting height or backward to raise the cutting height. See figure 18.

For rough or uneven lawns, move the height adjustment handle to a position which will give a higher cutting height.

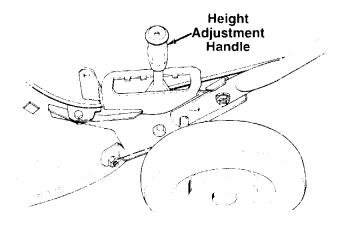


FIGURE 18.

THROTTLE

The throttle control wire assembly can be adjusted if necessary. Loosen the screw on the cable clamp closest to the control lever on engine. Adjust as instructed in step 5 (Model 12872) or step 4 (Model 12871) of "Attaching the Throttle Control Cable" in Assembly Instructions.

CARBURETOR ADJUSTMENTS



If any adjustments are made to the engine while the engine is running (e.g. carburetor), keep clear of all moving parts. Be careful of heated surfaces and muffler.

Minor carburetor adjustment may be required to compensate for differences in fuel, temperature, altitude and load. Refer to the separate engine manual packed with your mower for carburetor adjustment information.



A dirty air cleaner will cause an engine to run rough. Be certain air cleaner is clean and attached to the carburetor before adjusting carburetor. Refer to the separate engine manual.

LUBRICATION



Always stop engine and disconnect spark plug wire before cleaning, lubricating or doing any kind of work on lawn mower.

Blade Control—Lubricate the pivot points on the blade control handle and the brake cable at least once a season with light oil. See figure 19. The blade control must operate freely in both directions.

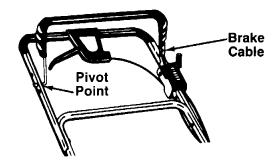


FIGURE 19.

Wheels—Mower is provided with ball bearing wheels. Lubricate at least once a season with light oil. Also, if the wheels are removed for any reason, lubricate the surface of the axle bolt and the inner surface of the wheel with light oil. A 4 oz. plastic bottle of light oil lubricant is available. Order part number 737-0170. Engine oil may also be used.

Engine—Follow engine manual for lubrication instructions.

Throttle—Periodically lubricate throttle control lever and throttle wire assembly with a few drops of light oil for ease of operation.

Transmission—The transmission is pre-lubricated and sealed at the factory. It does not require checking. If disassembled for any reason, fill with 2 ounces of Alvania grease, part number 737-0168.

MAINTENANCE



When tipping the unit, empty the fuel tank and keep engine spark plug side up.

TROUBLE SHOOTING

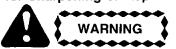
Refer to page 22 of this manual for trouble shooting information.

CUTTING BLADE



When replacing the blade on Model 12871, be certain to use part number 742-0289. Failure to use the correct blade can result in the blade safety feature not functioning properly and could cause serious personal injury.

A. Removal for Sharpening or Replacement



Be sure to disconnect and ground the spark plug wire before working on the cutting blade to prevent accidental engine starting. Protect hands by using heavy gloves or a rag to grasp the cutting blade.

Remove the large bolt and belleville washer which holds the blade and adapter to the engine crankshaft. Remove the blade and adapter from the crankshaft.

If the blade or blade adapter needs replacing, remove the two small bolts, lock washers and nuts which hold the blade to the adapter.



Periodically inspect the blade adapter for cracks, especially if you strike a foreign object. Replace when necessary.

B. Sharpening

Remove the cutting blade by following the directions of the preceding section.

When sharpening the blade, follow the original angle of grind as a guide. It is **extremely important** that each cutting edge receives an equal amount of grinding to prevent an unbalanced blade. An unbalanced blade will cause excessive vibration when rotating at high speeds, may cause damage to the mower and could break, causing personal injury.

It is recommended that the blade always be removed from the adapter for the best test of balance. The blade can be tested by balancing it on a round shaft screwdriver. Remove metal from the heavy side until it balances evenly.

C. Reassembly

Before reassembling the blade and the blade adapter to the unit, lubricate the engine crankshaft and the inner surface of the blade adapter with light oil. Lubricating the bolt holes, bolts and inner surface of the nuts with light oil is also recommended. A 4 oz. plastic bottle of light oil lubr cant is available. Order part number 737-0170. Engine oil may also be used.

When replacing the blade, be sure to install the blade with the side of the blade marked "Bottom" (or with part number) facing the ground when the mower is in the operating position.

Blade Mounting Torque

3/8" Dia. Bolt 375 in. lb. min., 450 in. lb. max. 5/16" Dia. Bolt 150 in. lb. min., 250 in. lb. max.

To insure safe operation of your unit, **all** nuts and bolts must be checked periodically for correct tightness.

DECK

The underside of mower deck should be cleaned after each period of use as grass clippings, leaves, dirt and other matter will accumulate. This accumulation of grass clippings, etc., is undesirable as it will invite rust and corrosion and may cause an uneven discharge of grass clippings at the next cutting.

The deck may be cleaned by tilting the mower forward or on its side and scraping clean with a suitable tool or by washing with a stream of water from a garden hose.



Do not direct the stream of water at a hot engine as damage to the engine may result.

ENGINE

Refer to the separate engine manual for all engine maintenance instructions.

Maintain **engine oil** as instructed in the separate engine manual packed with your unit. Read and follow instructions carefully.

Service air cleaner every 25 hours under normal conditions. Clean every few hours under extremely dusty conditions. Poor engine performance and flooding usually indicates that the air cleaner should be serviced. To service the air cleaner, refer to the separate engine manual packed with your unit.

The **spark plug** should be cleaned and the gap reset once a season. Spark plug replacement is recommended at the start of each mowing season; check engine manual for correct plug type and gap specifications.

BELT REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT

- 1. Disconnect the spark plug wire and ground it against the engine.
- 2. Drain the fuel tank or place a piece of plastic beneath the cap to prevent gasoline leakage.
- 3. Remove the transmission belt guard by removing three bolts. See figure 20.
- 4. Tip the mower on its side, and block securely.

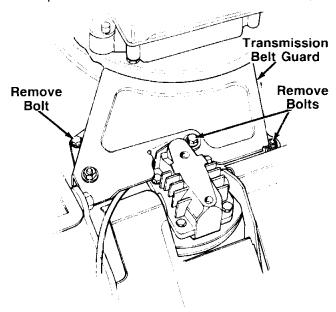


FIGURE 20.

- Remove the center bolt which secures the blade to the crankshaft. See figure 21. Roll the belt off the pulley. Remove the blade (and blade adapter with pulley).
- Remove the inside belt guard by removing two selftapping screws. A 3/8" wrench is required. See figure 21.

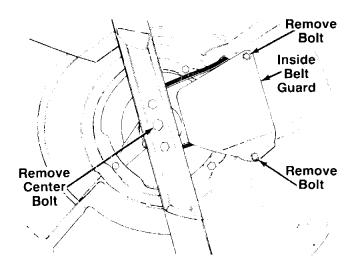


FIGURE 21.

- Remove the belt from between the idler pulley and the belt guard on the idler pulley bracket. Refer to figure 23.
- 8. Remove the belt from the transmission pulley.
- 9. Assemble the new belt as follows.
 - A. Push the idler pulley up out of the way as shown in figure 22.
 - B. Slide the belt in from the rear of the deck, and place it around the transmission pulley. See figure 22.
 - C. Release the idler pulley so it falls down into position. Slide the belt in between the idler pulley and the belt guard on the idler pulley bracket as shown in figure 23.
 - D. Grease the crankshaft. Place belt around the pulley on the blade adapter, and reassemble the blade. Reassemble the inside belt guard.
 - E. Reassemble the transmission belt guard, following instructions in step 3 in reverse order.



When reassembling the transmission belt guard, be certain it is approximately 1/8" away from the belt. Make certain to tighten all nuts and bolts securely. If plastic was placed under the gas cap, be certain to remove it.

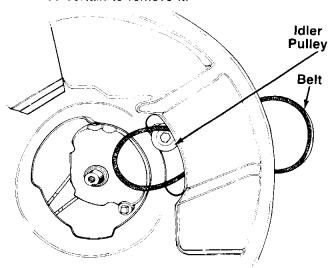


FIGURE 22.

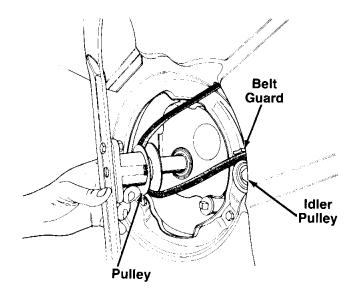


FIGURE 23.

OFF-SEASON STORAGE

The following steps should be taken to prepare lawn mower for storage.

- 1. Clean and lubricate mower thoroughly as described in the lubrication instructions.
- 2. Refer to engine manual for correct engine storage instructions.
- 3. Coat mower's cutting blade with chassis grease to prevent rusting.
- 4. Store mower in a dry, clean area.



When storing any type of power equipment in an unventilated or metal storage shed, care should be taken to rustproof the equipment. Using a light oil or silicone, coat the equipment, especially cables and all moving parts.



The use of any accessory on this Rotary Mower other than those manufactured by the mower manufacturer is **not** recommended.

GRASS CATCHER KIT Model 19074 is available as optional equipment for the mower shown in this manual.

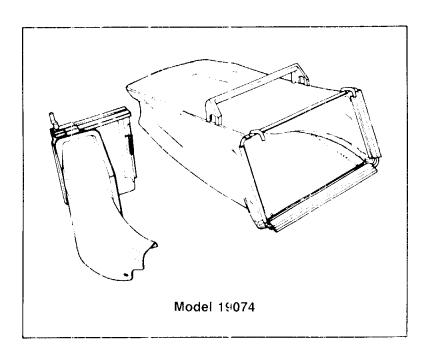


- 1. DO NOT operate the mower without the entire grass catcher or chute deflector in place.
- 2. DO NOT operate the mower without the protective shield on the rear of the deck in place.

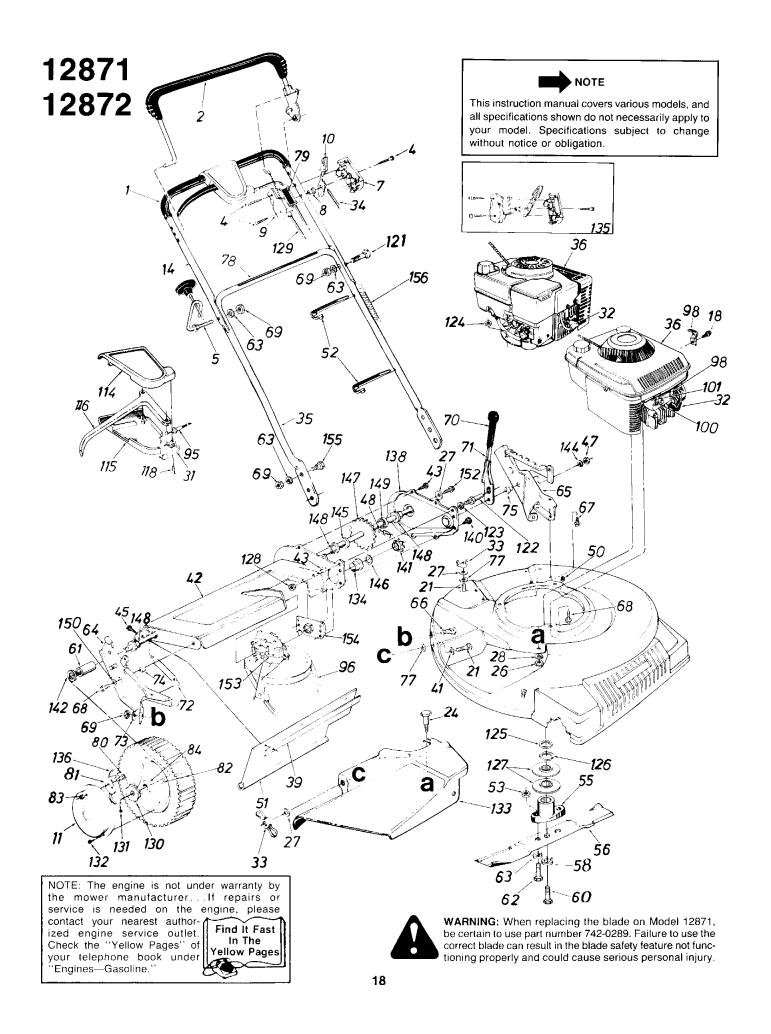


Under normal usage bag material is subject to wear and should be checked periodically. Be sure any replacement bag complies with the mower manufacturer's recommendations.

For replacement bags, use only factory authorized replacement bag No. 764-0240.



For units not equipped with the above, rear discharge grass bag assembly Model 19074 is available as optional equipment.



12871 12872

FARTS LIST FOR MODELS 12871 AND 12872 21" ROTARY MOWERS

	21" ROTARY MOWERS								
REF. NO.	PART NO.	COLOR CODE	DESCRIPTION	NEW PART		PART NO.	COLOR CODE	DESCRIPTION	NEW PART
1 1	718-0145		Grip		63	712-0267		Hex Nut 5/16-18 Thd.*	
2	731-0609		Control Handle Ass'y.—L H.			720-0143		Grip	
4	710-0796		Truss Mach. Scr. #12 x		71	732-0473		Height Adj. Lever	
'			1.50° Lg.		7.2	732-0481		Extension Spring 3.80" Lg.	
5	710-0842		Rope Guide Bolt		73	736-0242		Bell-Wash. 5/16" I.D.	
7	731-0817		Control Panel Half		7.1	750-0526		Spacer .385" I.D.	
8	731-0524		Control Disc Pin			750-0624		Shld. Spacer .5" Dia.	
1	731-0816		Clutch Panel Half			726-0233		Bolt Retainer 1/4 x .50" O.D.	
	731-0528		Throttle Control Lever		73			Instruction Label	
11	10647		Hub Cap (Rear)		79	777-5814		Control Label	
14	749-0437		Upper Handle-Chrome		8)	738-0137		Shld. Scr342" Dia. x .268	
18	710-0429		Hex B-Tap Scr #10 x .38"		81	748-0188	, ,	Pawl	
21	710-0423		Carriage Bolt 1/4-20 x 62" *		82			Wheel Ass'y. Comp.—Rear	
24	738-0704		Shoulder Bolt .312 Dia. x		83	1		Hex Ins. L-Nut 1/4-20 Thd.	
24	7.50-070-		.18 Lg. Special			741-0180		Flange Ball Bearing ½" I.D.	
26	712-0287		Hex Nut 1/4-20 Thd.*			746-0650	1	S.P. Cable x 50" Lg.	N
27	736-0270		Bell-Wash. 1/4 " I.D.			754-0343		"V"-Belt	N
28	736-0270		L-Wash. 1/4" I.D.*			12894		Casing Clamp	
31	731-0619		S.P. Control Cover			710-0436		Hex B-Tap Scr. #10 x .62"	
	735-0639		Spark Plug Insulator		i	751-0442		Casing Clamp	N
33	712-0109		Wing Nut	İ		17051	621	21" Deck Ass'y.	N
34	746-0633		Throttle Control Wire 58"			731-0617	UZ1	Self-Propelled Control Cover	'
34	740-0033		(12872)	İ		731-0618		Self-Propelled Control Cover	
	746 0622		Throttle Control Wire 53"			731-0610		Control Lever	
	746-0632		(12871)		1	710-0841		FI-"C"-Sunk Hd. Tap Scr.	
١	740 0700		Lower HandleChrome	N	113	710-0641		#10 x .75" Lg.	
35	749-0726			14	121	710-0405		Curved Carr. Bolt 5/16-18 x	
36	1 4005	ļ	Engine Detaining Strip		121	7 10-0403		1.75" Lg.	
- 1	14835	i	Retaining Strip		 400	711 0005			
41	736-0204		Fl-Wash344" I.D. x .62"	N		711-0805 736-0169		ShId. Pin 1.43" Lg. L-Wash. 3/8" I.D.	
42	17055	1	Chain—Axle Ass' /.	11/					
	710-0352	1	Hex B-Tap Scr. 1/4" x .38"	İ	124	712-0798		Hex Nut 3/8 x 16 Thd.* (12871)	
	710-0776		Hex AB-Tap Scr. ¼ x .62"		105	726 0400		Serrated Wash. 1.0" I.D.	
47	712-0296		Hex Patch L-Nut 3/8-24 Thd.			736-0409			
48	713-0353		#48 Chain .500" Pitch x 30			736-0408	1	Wave Wash. 1.005" I.D. Serrated Pulley Half	
	704 0564		Links		1	756-0502		,	
	731-0564		Plug Rear Flap 3.75" x 17.30" Lg.			712-0241		Hex Nut 3/8-24 Thd.*	
51	731-0672				129	746-0480 746-0478	1	Control Cable—46" (12872)	
	726-0240		Cable Tie		120	1	1	Control Cable—49 ^e (12871) Ratchet Wheel 1.62" O.D.	
	712-0123		Hex Nut 5/16-24 Thd.*	NI.		748-0318 714-0115		Cotter Pin 1/8" Dia. x 1"*	
	756-0317		Blade Adapter	N		710-0748		Pan Hd. Tap Scr. #12 x .50"	
56	742-0307		21" Blade (12872)	IN				Side Chute Deflector Ass'y.	N.
	742-0289		21" Blade (12871)			731-0885			N
	736-0411		Bell-Wash460" I.D. x 1 38"			748-0249		Flange Bearing	
	710-0757		Hex Bolt 7/16-20 x 1.5"	İ		753-0430		Kit—Control Housing Comp.	
	748-0190		Spacer .513" I.D.			10622		Spring—Nylor	
62	710-0888		Hex Bolt 5/16-24 x 1.00" Lg	1		17053		Chain Cover	
00	700 0440		(Grade 5)		140	710-0599		Hex Wash. S-Tap Scr. 1/4-20	
	736-0119		L-Wash. 5/16" I.D.*			710 0100		x .50" Lg.	ŀ
64	16136		R.H. Handle Wheel Brkt.	İ		713-0400		Sprocket—Shaft Ass'y.	
			Ass'y.	İ	1	736-0326	1	Fl-Wash510" I.D. x 1.0"	į
65	16137		L.H. Handle Wheel Brkt.			736-0300		FI-Wash385" I.D. x .87"	
	L		Ass'y.		1	736-0326	i	Fl-Wash51" I.D. x 1.0"	
	710-0260		Carriage Bolt 5/16-18 x .62" *			736-0336		Fl-Wash. 3/8" I.D.	1
67	710-0603		Hex Wash. Hd. B-Tap Scr.			738-0719		Rear Shaft Ass'y, 21.94" Lg.	N
	1		5/16-18			741-0324		Hex Flange Brg506" I.D.	
68	710-0654		Hex Wash, Hd. TT-Tap Scr.			736-0160		Fl-Wash531" I.D. x .930"	1
<u></u>	<u> </u>	1	3/8-16	<u> </u>	<u> 150</u>	736-0258		FI-Wash. 3/8" I.D.	

PARTS LIST FOR MODELS 12871 AND 12872 21" ROTARY MOWERS (CONTINUED)

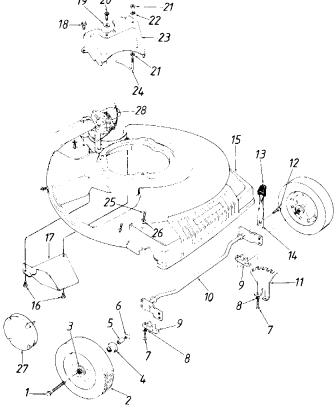
REF. NO.	PART NO.	COLOR CODE	DESCRIPTION	NEW PART	REF. NO.	PART NO.	COLOR	DESCRIPTION	NEW PART
152	710-0751		Hex Bolt ¼-20 x .62" Lg. (Grade 5)		155	710-0323		Truss Mach. Scr. 5/16-18 x .75" Lg.	
153	717-0417		Transmission Comp. (See Breakdown)			731-0759 8871-400-7		Plastic Tubing Hardware Pack (12871)	
154	16500		Hex Bearing Cup			8872-400-7	l	Hardware Pack (12872)	

⁶²¹⁻Brilliant Fire Mist

*For faster service obtain standard nuts, bolts and washers locally. If these items cannot be obtained locally, order by part number and size as shown on parts list.

If color or finish is important when ordering parts, use the appropriate color code shown above [i.e. (part no.)-621 for Brilliant Fire Mist Finish].

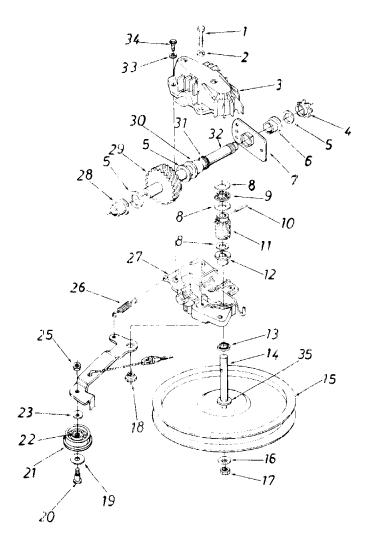
12871 12872



PARTS LIST FOR MODELS 12871 AND 12872 21" ROTARY MOWERS

REF. NO.	PART NO.	COLOR CODE	DESCRIPTION	NEW PART	REF. NO.	PART NO.	COLOR CODE	DESCRIPTION	NEW PART
1	710-0347		Hex Bolt 3/8-16 x 1.75" Lg.*		15	731-0865		Plastic Front End	
2	734-1259		Wheel Ass'y. Comp. 8 x 1.75		16	710-0352		Hex B-Tap Scr. 1/4-,38"	
3	741-0267	•	Flange Ball Brg. 3/8" I.D.		17	17064		Belt Cover	N
4	741-0484		Flange Ball Brg501" I.D.		18	710-0599		Hex Wash. Hd. TT-Scr. 1/4-20	
5	750-0434		Spacer		19	736-0270		Bell-Wash265" I.D. x .75"	
6	736-0105		Bell-Wash400" I.D. x .88		20	710-0896		Hex Wash. Hd. B-Tap Scr.	
7	710-0588		Hex Wash. Hd. B-Tap Scr.				Ì	1/4 x .62" (Spec.)	
			1/4-20	ļ ,	21	712-0287		Hex Nut 1/4-20 Thd.*	
8	736-0329		L-Wash. ¼" I.D.*		22	736-0329		L-Wash. 1/4 I.D.*	
9	741-0492	İ	Block Bushing		23	17058		Transmission Belt Guard	N
10	17060		Axle Ass'y.	N	24	747-0549		S.P. Belt Guard	N
11	17059		Height Adj. Bracket		25	710-1001		Truss B-Tap Scr. 5/16 x .75"	
12	710-0642		Hex Wash. Hd. B-Tap Scr.					Lg.	
			¼-20 x .75" Lg.		26	736-0271		Bell-Wash. 5/16" I.D. x 5/8	
13	720-0190		Knob		27	731-0571	305	Hub Cap	
14	732-0553		Spring Lever	!	28	746-0650		S.P. Cable 50" Lg.	

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PARTS LIST FOR MODELS 12871 AND 12872 21" ROTARY MOWERS

REF. NO.	PART NO.	COLOR CODE	DESCRIPTION	NEW REF. PART NO.	PART NO.	COLOR DESCRIPTION	NEW PART
1	710-0106		Hex Bolt 1/4-20 x 1.25" Lg *	18	738-0440	Shld. Spacer .375" Dia. x	
2	736-0329		L-Wash 1/4" I.D.*			.170†	
3	717-0418		Upper Hsg. Half	19	736-0344	Fl-Wash390" I.D. x 1.0"†	1
4	713-0400		#48 Sprocket 7 Tooth x 1/2	20	738-0691	Shld. Bolt .375" Dia x .40"±	
			Pitch	21	756-0447	Fl-Idler Plastic 1.50" Dia.†	
5	736-0336	į	Fl-Wash, 5/8" I.D. x .030	22	741-0482	Needle Brg375" x .31†	, i
6	741-0413		Hex Flange Brg631" I.D.	23	736-0270	Bell-Wash .265" I.D. x .75" †	1
7	16500		Hex Bearing Cup	24	17502	Idler Brk't. Ass'y.†	N,
8	736-0314		Thrust Wash. 382" I.D. x	25	712-0138	Hex Patch L-Nut 1/4-28 Thd.†	
		1	.70" O.D.	2€	732-0357	Extension Spring 1.12" Lg.†	
9	741-0479		Thrust Bearing .375" I D. x	27	717-0419	Lower Hsg. Ha f	
			.812" O.D.	28	741-0415	Flange Bearing .566 Dia.	
10	715-0152		Spring Pin Spir. 1/8" x .62"	29	717-0422	33 Tooth Helical Gear	
1			Heavy	: 30	741-0414	Flange Bearing .629 Dia.	
11	717-0420	:	11 Tooth Helical Gear	: 3*	721-0213	Oil Seal .625 Dia.	
12	748-0208		Flange Bearing	32	738-0607	Gear Sprocket Shaft	
13	721-0212	Í	Oil Sea	. 30	736-0722	L-Wash. #10 I.D.	
14	738-0708		Pulley-Transmission Shaft	32.	710-0436	Hex B-Tap Scr. #10 x .62"	
15	756-0330		FI-Pulley 5.06" O.D.†	35	736-0410	•	. N
16	736-0270		Bell-Wash265" I.D. x .75" †		717-0417		
17	712-0138		Hex L-Nut 1/4-28 Thd.†			,	

†Not Part of Transmission Complete

Trouble Shooting Chart

	Trouble Shooting	
Symptom	Possible Causes	Corrective Action
1 Engine fails to start	 A Blade control handle disengaged B Check fuel tank for fuel C Fuel shut-off valve closed D Spark plug lead wire disconnected E Throttle control lever not in the starting position F Faulty spark plug G Carburetor improperly adjusted, engine flooded H Old stale fuel I Engine brake engaged 	A Engage blade control handle. B Fill tank if empty. C Open fuel shut-off valve. D Connect lead wire. E Move throttle lever to start position. F Clean, adjust gap or replace.† G Remove spark plug, dry the plug, crank engine with plug removed, and throttle in off position. Replace spark plug and lead wire and resume starting procedures. H Drain and refill with fresh fuel. I Follow starting procedure.
2 Hard starting or loss of power	A Spark plug wire loose B Carburetor improperly adjusted C Dirty air cleaner	A Connect and tighten spark plug wire. B Adjust carburetor.† C Clean air cleaner.†
3 Operation erratic	 A Dirt in fuel tank B Dirty air cleaner C Water in fuel supply D Vent in gas cap plugged E Carburetor improperly adjusted 	 A Remove the dirt and fill tank with fresh fuel. B Clean air cleaner.† C Drain contaminated fuel and fill tank with fresh fuel. D Clear vent or replace gas cap. E Adjust carburetor.†
Occasional skip (hesitates) at high speed	 A Carburetor idle speed too slow B Spark plug gap too close C Carburetor idle mixture adjustment improperly set 	 A Adjust carburetor.† B Adjust to .030". C Adjust carburetor.†
5 Idles poorly	A Spark plug fouled, faulty, or gap too wide B Carburetor improperly adjusted C Dirty air cleaner	 A Reset gap to .030" or replace spark plug. B Adjust carburetor.† C Clean air cleaner.†
6 Engine overheats	 A Carburetor not adjusted properly B Air flow restricted C Engine oil level low 	 A Adjust carburetor.† B Remove blower housing and clean.† C Fill crankcase with the proper oil or fuel mixture.
7 Excessive vibration	A Cutting blade loose or unbalanced B Bent cutting blade	A Tighten blade and adapter.Balance blade.B Replace blade.

†Refer to separate engine manual packed with your unit.

Note: For repairs beyond the minor adjustments listed above, contact your local authorized service dealer.

YARD-MAN PARTS INFORMATION

POWER EQUIPMENT PARTS AND SERVICE

Parts and service for all YARD-MAN manufactured power equipment are available through local Authorized Service Dealers. Check the yellow pages. All orders should specify the model number of your unit, part numbers, description of parts and the quantity of each part required. DO NOT SEND PARTS ORDERS TO FACTORY. Service Distributors listed below, identified by state abbreviation, may be contacted for service assistance.

BRIGGS & STRATTON, TECUMSEH AND PEERLESS PARTS AND SERVICE

Briggs & Stratton, Tecumseh and Peerless parts and service should be handled by your nearest authorized engine service firm. Check the yellow pages of your telephone directory under the listing **Engine—Gasoline**, Briggs & Stratton or Tecumseh Lauson.

AZ CA NV	A. E. I. CORPORATION 2641 DuBridge Ave. P.O. Box 16097 Irvine, CA 92713		811 Woodward Heights Ferndale, MI 48220 (313) 541-4660	NM	HUGO SCHULTE & CO. 6666 Fourth St. Albuquerque, NM 87107
NC SC	(714) 474-3070 ALLISON-ERWIN CO. 2920 N. Tryon Street P.O. Box 32308	C-FL WI	MANLEY IHACTOR SALES 5909 E. Broadway Tampa, FL 33619 (813) 626-5900 MERCO CORP.	DE MD VA WA DC	(505) 345-2633 SMITHCO DISTRIBUTING CO. 10302A Southard Dr. Beltsville, MD 20705 (301) 937-6410
CT RI	Charlotte, NC 28232 (704) 334-8621 COBBLE MOUNTAIN SUPPLY 615 West Johnson Ave.	N-MI	4080 N. Pt. Washington Rd. P.O. Box 12145 Milwaukee, WI 53212 (414) 961-3200	SD	STERN OIL CO. INC. 394 South Main P.O. Box 218 Freeman, SD 57029
MA	Cheshire, CT 06410 (203) 272-1866	MN	MERCO CORP. MINN. 7428 Washington Ave.	TX	(605) 925-7999 TIMBERLAND SAW CO.
ME	M. L. COFFIN CO.		Eden Prairie, MN 55344	OK	Hwy. 31 South
NH	725 Broadway		(612) 941-3550	AR	P.O. Box 1227
VT	Bangor, ME 04401	NJ	NIEMEYER CORP.	LA	Marshall, TX 75671
NI O A	(207) 942-8289	NY	1135 Phoenixville Pike		(214) 935-5251
N-GA	DEALER SUPPLY CO.	PA	P.O. Box 1477	IL	TRYSON DISTRIBUTING
	P.O. Box 188 323 S. Main St.		West Chester, PA 19380-0037 (215) 431-7200		COMPANY
	Swainsboro, GA 30401	МО	OZARK EQUIPMENT CO.		670 Bonnie Lane Elk Grove Village, IL 60007
	(912) 237-7000	E-KS	Hwy. 63 & Black Street		(312) 593-3010
MS	DICKERSON DISTRIBUTORS,	LIKO	Rolla, MO 65401	OR	R. M. WADE & CO.
1110	INC.		(314) 364-2180	AK	10025 S. W. Allen Blvd.
	P.O. Drawer 231	N-FL	POWER EQUIP. DIST. INC.		Beaverton, OR 97005
	127 N. W. Depot	S-GA	565 S. Edgewood Ave.		(503) 641-1865
	Durant, MS 39063		Jacksonville, FL 32205	WA	Ř. M. WADE & CO.
	(601) 653-3004		(904) 387-1512	W-ID	5808 S. 196th St.
S-FL	FLORIDA TURF & GARDEN	UT MT	POWERED PRODUCTS		Kent, WA 98032
	EQUIP.	NV S-ID	1661 N. Beck St.		(206) 872-9233
	7275 NW 64th St.		Salt Lake City, UT 84116	WA	R. M. WADE & CO.
	Miami, FL 33166	011	(801) 359-9767		E. 10011 Montgomery #18
UP-NY	(305) 592-3846 GAMBLE DISTRIBUTING INC.	OH IN	RAHRIG SALES INC.		Spokane, WA 99206 (509) 922-6100
OF-IVI	P.O. Box 389	W-WV	108-110 W. Lima St. Forest, OH 45843	CANADA	MTD PRODUCTS CANADA
	West End Ave.	44-44 A	(419) 273-2556	CANADA	97 Kent Ave.
	Carthage, NY 13619	KY TN	RASCHE CYCLE CO.		Kitchener, Ontario
	(315) 493-2270	S-IL	713 Kentucky Ave.		Canada, N2G 4J1
CO	GENERATOR CITY		Paducah, KY 42001		(519) 579-5500
	1845 N Federal Blvd.		(502) 443-5698	EXPORT	DRÁKE AMERICA CORP.
	Denver, CO 80204	ND	ROTT-KELLER CO.		#2 Gannett Drive
	(303) 455-2800		65-28th St. S.		White Plains, NY 10604
MI	IDEAL MOWER SALES		Fargo, ND 58107		(914) 697-9800
			(701) 235-0563		

WARRANTY PARTS AND SERVICE POLICY

(1086)

The purpose of warranty is to protect the customer from defects in workmanship and materials, defects which are NOT detected at the time of manufacture. It does not provide for the unlimited and unrestricted replacement of parts. Use and maintenance are the responsibility of the customer. The manufacturer cannot assume responsibility for conditions over which it has no control. Simply put, if it's the manufacturer's fault, it's the manufacturer's responsibility; if it's the customer's fault, it's the customer's responsibility.

CLAIMS AGAINST THE MANUFACTURER'S WARRANTY INCLUDES:

- 1. Replacement of Missing Parts on new equipment.
- 2. Replacement of Defective Parts within the warranty period.
- 3. Repair of Defects within the warranty period.

All claims MUST be substantiated with the following information:

- Model Number, Serial Number and/or Data Code of unit involved.
- 2. Date unit was purchased or first put into service.
- 3. Date of failure-Date Repaired.
- 4. Nature of failure-Correction.