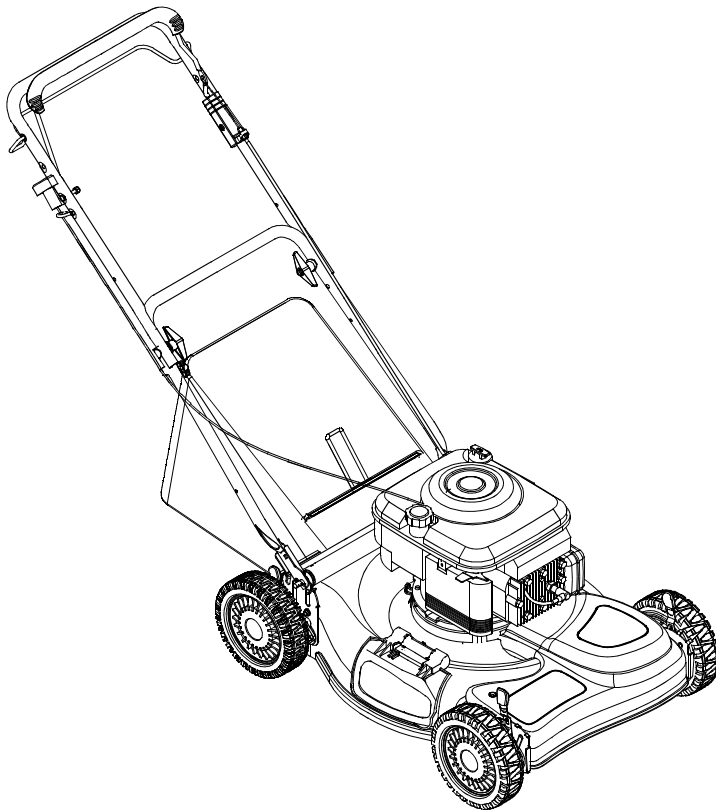


# Operator's Manual



## 21" Three-in-One Lawn Mower

Model 469

**IMPORTANT:** Read safety rules and instructions carefully before operating equipment.

**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 for the muffler is available through your nearest engine authorized service dealer or contact the service department, P.O. Box 361131 Cleveland, Ohio 44136-0019.

**MTD LLC, P.O. BOX 361131 CLEVELAND, OHIO 44136-0019**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Content	Page
Important Safe Operation Practices.....	3
Slope Gauge.....	6
Assembling Your Lawn Mower.....	7
Know Your Lawn Mower.....	10
Operating Your Lawn Mower.....	11
Maintaining Your Lawn Mower.....	12
Service.....	13
Making Adjustments.....	14
Off- Season Storage.....	15
Troubleshooting.....	16
Parts List.....	18

## FINDING MODEL NUMBER

This Operator's Manual is an important part of your new Lawn Mower. It will help you assemble, prepare and maintain the unit for best performance. Please read and understand what it says.



**Before you start assembling your new equipment**, please locate the model plate on the equipment and copy the information from it in the space provided below. The information on the model plate is very important if you need help from our Customer Support Department or an authorized dealer.

- You can locate the model number by standing behind the unit in the operating position and looking down at the rear of the deck. A sample model plate is explained below. For future reference, please copy the model number and the serial number of the equipment in the space below.

(Model Number)

(Serial Number)

**MTD LLC**  
**P. O. BOX 361131**  
**CLEVELAND, OH 44136**  
**330-220-4683**  
**800-800-7310**

**Copy the model number here:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Copy the serial number here:** \_\_\_\_\_

## ENGINE INFORMATION

The engine manufacturer is responsible for all engine-related issues with regards to performance, power-rating, specifications, warranty and service. Please refer to the engine manufacturer's Owner's/Operator's Manual packed separately with your unit for more information.

## CALLING CUSTOMER SUPPORT

If you have difficulty assembling this product or have any questions regarding the controls, operation or maintenance of this unit, please call the Customer Support Department.



Call **1- (330) 220-4MTD (4683)** or **1- (800)-800-7310** to reach a Customer Support representative. Please have your unit's model number and serial number ready when you call. See previous section to locate this information. You will be asked to enter the serial number in order to process your call.

**For more details about your unit, visit our website at [www.mtdproducts.com](http://www.mtdproducts.com)**

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## SECTION 1: IMPORTANT SAFE OPERATION PRACTICES



**WARNING:** 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 this machine. Failure to comply with these instructions may result in personal injury. When you see this symbol—HEED ITS WARNING.

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

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

### General Operation

1. Read this operator's manual carefully in its entirety before attempting to assemble this machine. Read, understand, and follow all instructions on the machine and in the manual(s) before operation. 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. This machine is a precision piece of power equipment, not a plaything. Therefore, exercise extreme caution at all times. Your unit has been designed to perform one job: to mow grass. Do not use it for any other purpose.
3. Never allow children under 14 years old to operate this machine. Children 14 years old and over should read and understand the operation instructions and safety rules in this manual and should be trained and supervised by a parent. Only responsible individuals who are familiar with these safe operation rules should use this machine.
4. Thoroughly inspect the area where equipment is to be used. Remove all stones, sticks, wire, bones, toys and other foreign objects which could be tripped over or picked up and thrown by the blade. Thrown objects can cause serious personal injury. Plan your mowing pattern to avoid discharge of material toward roads, sidewalks, bystanders and the like. Also, avoid discharging material against a wall or obstruction which may cause discharged material to ricochet back toward the operator.
5. To help avoid blade contact or a thrown object injury, stay in the operator zone behind the handles and keep bystanders, helpers, children and pets at least 75 feet from the machine while it is in operation. Stop machine if anyone enters the area.
6. Always wear safety glasses to protect your eyes during equipment operation and while performing an adjustment or repair. Thrown objects which ricochet can cause serious injury to the eyes.
7. Wear sturdy, rough-soled work shoes and close-fitting slacks and shirts. Shirts and pants that cover the arms and legs and steel-toed shoes are recommended. Never operate this machine in bare feet, sandals, slippery or light weight (e.g. canvas) shoes.
8. Do not put hands or feet near rotating parts or under the cutting deck. Contact with the blade can amputate hands and feet.
9. A missing or damaged discharge cover can cause blade contact or thrown object injuries.
10. Many injuries occur as a result of the mower being pulled over the foot during a fall caused by slipping or tripping. Do not hold on to the mower if you are falling; release the handle immediately.
11. Never pull the mower back toward you while you are walking. If you must back the mower away from a wall or obstruction first look down and behind to avoid tripping and then follow these steps:
  - a. Step back from the mower to fully extend your arms.
  - b. Be sure you are well balanced with sure footing.
  - c. Pull the mower back slowly, no more than half way toward you.
  - d. Repeat these steps as needed.
12. Do not operate the mower while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
13. Do not engage the self-propelled mechanism on units so equipped while starting engine.
14. 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 and automatically return to the disengaged position when released.
15. Never operate the mower in wet grass. Always be sure of your footing. A slip and fall can cause serious personal injury. If you feel you are losing your footing, release the blade control handle immediately and the blade will stop rotating within three seconds.

16. Mow in daylight or good artificial light. Walk, never run.
17. Stop the blade when crossing gravel drives, walkways or roads.
18. If the equipment should start to vibrate abnormally, stop the engine and check immediately for the cause. Vibration is generally a warning of trouble.
19. 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.
20. Never operate mower without proper trail shield, discharge cover, grass catcher, blade control handle or other safety protective devices in place and working. Never operate mower with damaged safety devices. Failure to do so can result in personal injury.
21. Muffler and engine become hot and can cause a burn. Do not touch.
22. Only use parts and accessories made by the original equipment manufacturer (O.E.M). Failure to do so can result in personal injury.
23. If situations occur which are not covered in this manual, use care and good judgment. Contact your dealer for assistance. Telephone 1-800-800-7310 for the name of your nearest dealer.

## Slope Operation

Slopes are a major factor related to slip and fall accidents which can result in severe injury. Operation on slopes requires extra caution. If you feel uneasy on a slope, do not mow it. Before operating this unit on a slope or hilly area, use the slope gauge on page 6 to measure slopes. If the slope is greater than 15 degrees, do not mow it.

### Do:

1. Mow across the face of slopes; never up and down. Exercise extreme caution when changing direction on slopes.
2. Watch for holes, ruts, rocks, hidden objects, or bumps which can cause you to slip or trip. Tall grass can hide obstacles.
3. Always be sure of your footing. A slip and fall can cause serious personal injury. If you feel you are losing your balance, release the blade control handle immediately, and the blade will stop rotating within 3 seconds.

### Do Not:

1. Do not mow near drop-offs, ditches or embankments, you could lose your footing or balance.
2. Do not mow slopes greater than 15 degrees as shown on the slope gauge.

3. Do not mow on wet grass. Unstable footing could cause slipping.

## 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. They do not understand the dangers. 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 other than the operator.
2. Be alert and turn mower off if a child enters the area.
3. Before and while moving backwards, look behind and down for small children.
4. Use extreme care when approaching blind corners, doorways, shrubs, trees, or other objects that may obscure your vision of a child who may run into the mower.
5. Keep children away from hot or running engines. They can suffer burns from a hot muffler.
6. Never allow children under 14 years old to operate a power mower. Children 14 years old and over should read and understand the operation instructions and safety rules in this manual and should be trained and supervised by a parent.

## Service

### Safe Handling of Gasoline:

1. To avoid personal injury or property damage use extreme care in handling gasoline. Gasoline is extremely flammable and the vapors are explosive. Serious personal injury can occur when gasoline is spilled on yourself or your clothes which can ignite.
2. Wash your skin and change clothes immediately.
3. Use only an approved gasoline container.
4. Never fill containers inside a vehicle or on a truck or trailer bed with a plastic liner. Always place containers on the ground away from your vehicle before filling.
5. If possible, remove gas-powered equipment from the truck or trailer and refuel it on the ground. If this is not possible, then refuel such equipment on a trailer with a portable container, rather than from a gasoline dispenser nozzle.
6. Keep the nozzle in contact with the rim of the fuel tank or container opening at all times until fueling is complete. Do not use a nozzle lock-open device.
7. Extinguish all cigarettes, cigars, pipes and other sources of ignition.
8. Never fuel machine indoors because flammable vapors will accumulate in the area.
9. Never remove gas cap or add fuel while the engine is hot or running. Allow engine to cool at least two minutes before refueling.

10. Never over fill fuel tank. Fill tank to no more than ½ inch below bottom of filler neck to provide space for fuel expansion.
11. Replace gasoline cap and tighten securely.
12. If gasoline is spilled, wipe it off the engine and equipment. Move unit to another area. Wait 5 minutes before starting the engine.
13. Never store the machine or fuel container inside where there is an open flame, spark or pilot light as on a water heater, space heater, furnace, clothes dryer or other gas appliances.
14. To reduce fire hazard, keep mower free of grass, leaves, or other debris build-up. Clean up oil or fuel spillage and remove any fuel soaked debris.
15. Allow a mower to cool at least 5 minutes before storing.

#### General Service:

1. Never run an engine indoors or in a poorly ventilated area. Engine exhaust contains carbon monoxide, an odorless and deadly gas.
2. Before cleaning, repairing, or inspecting, make certain the blade and all moving parts have stopped. Disconnect the spark plug wire and ground against the engine to prevent unintended starting.
3. Check the blade and engine mounting bolts at frequent intervals for proper tightness. Also, visually inspect blade for damage (e.g., bent, cracked, worn). Replace blade with the original equipment manufacturer's (O.E.M.) blade only, listed in this manual. "Use of parts which do not meet the original equipment specifications may lead to improper performance and compromise

safety"

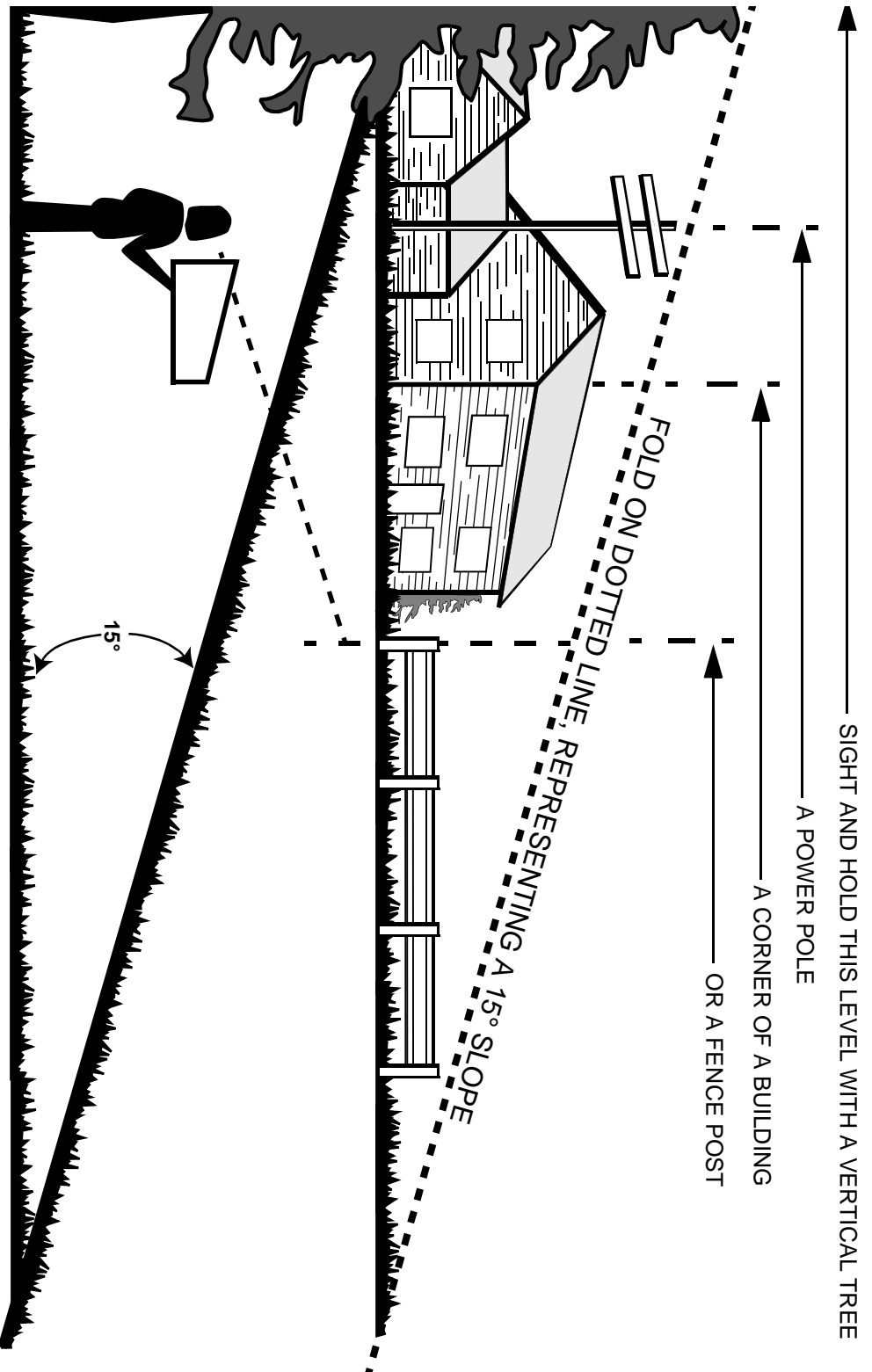
4. Mower blades are sharp and can cut. Wrap the blade or wear gloves, and use extra caution when servicing them.
5. Keep all nuts, bolts, and screws tight to be sure the equipment is in safe working condition.
6. Never tamper with safety devices. Check their proper operation regularly.
7. After striking a foreign object, stop the engine, disconnect the spark plug wire and ground against the engine. Thoroughly inspect the mower for any damage. Repair the damage before starting and operating the mower.
8. Never attempt to make a wheel or cutting height adjustment while the engine is running.
9. Grass catcher components, discharge cover, and trail shield are subject to wear and damage which could expose moving parts or allow objects to be thrown. For safety protection, frequently check components and replace immediately with original equipment manufacturer's (O.E.M.) parts only, listed in this manual. "Use of parts which do not meet the original equipment specifications may lead to improper performance and compromise safety!"
10. Do not change the engine governor setting or overspeed the engine. The governor controls the maximum safe operating speed of the engine.
11. Maintain or replace safety and instruction labels, as necessary.
12. Observe proper disposal laws and regulations. Improper disposal of fluids and materials can harm the environment.

## Your Responsibility

- Restrict the use of this power machine to persons who read, understand and follow the warnings and instructions in this manual and on the machine.



## SECTION 2: SLOPE GAUGE



Do not mow on inclines with a slope in excess of 15 degrees (a rise of approximately 2-1/2 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 RIDING mowers up and down slopes, never across the face of slopes. Operate WALK-BEHIND mowers across the face of slopes, never up and down slopes.

## SECTION 3: ASSEMBLING YOUR LAWN MOWER

### Removing Unit From Carton

- Remove staples, break glue on top flaps or cut tape at carton end and peel along top flap to open carton.
- Remove loose parts if included with unit (i.e., operator's manual, hardware pack etc.).
- Cut corners and lay carton down flat. Remove packing material.
- Roll or slide unit out of carton. Check carton thoroughly for loose parts.

**NOTE:** Make sure not to crimp the cables while removing the loose parts or the entire unit from the carton.

### Tools Required

- Pair of Pliers
- Funnel
- Set of adjustable wrenches

### Disconnecting Spark Plug

- Before setting up your lawn mower, disconnect the spark plug wire from the spark plug, and ground it against the engine. See Figure 1 .

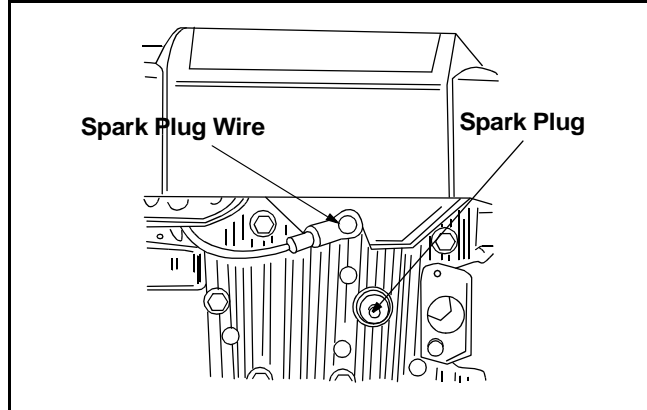


Figure 1

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

**IMPORTANT:** This unit is shipped without gasoline or oil in the engine. Be certain to service engine with gasoline and oil before operating your mower.

### Assembling Handle

- For shipping purposes, the grass bag was placed on top of the unit. Remove it from the unit and set it out of the way. See Figure 2 .

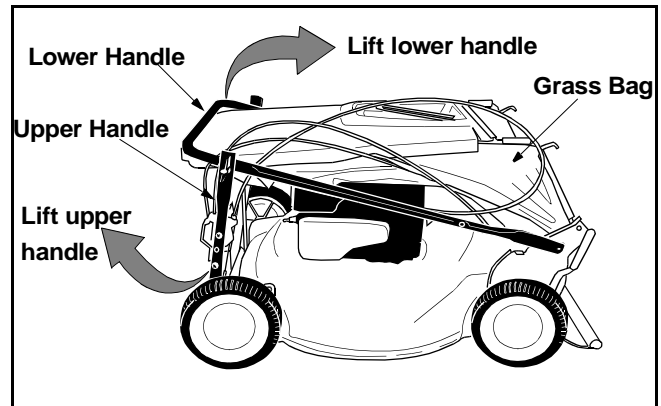


Figure 2

- Raise the lower handle, as shown in Figure 2 , till it snaps into place.
- Raise the upper handle as shown in Figure 2 .
- Tighten the two wing nuts which are already on the handle. See Figure 3 .

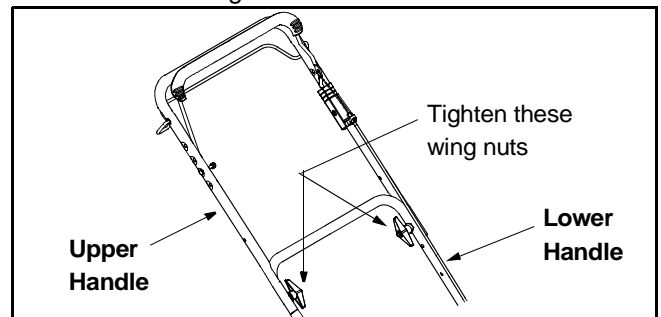


Figure 3

**NOTE:** Make sure to route the cables outside the lower handle. Also do not crimp the cables while lifting the handle up.

- For shipping purposes, the hairpin clip is placed in the outer hole of the weld pin on the lower handle. Remove the hairpin clip from the outer hole of the weld pin.
- Using a pair of pliers, insert the hairpin clip into the inner hole in the weld pin. Repeat on the other side. See Figure 4 .

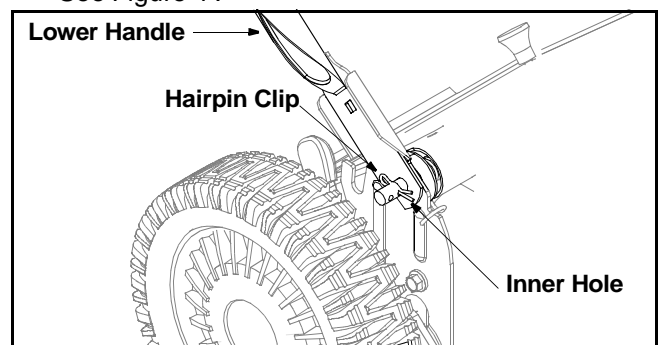


Figure 4

- Insert post of cable ties that are on lower handle into the holes provided on the lower handle. The holes may be on the inside or outside. Pull cable ties tight and cut off the extra. See Figure 5 below.

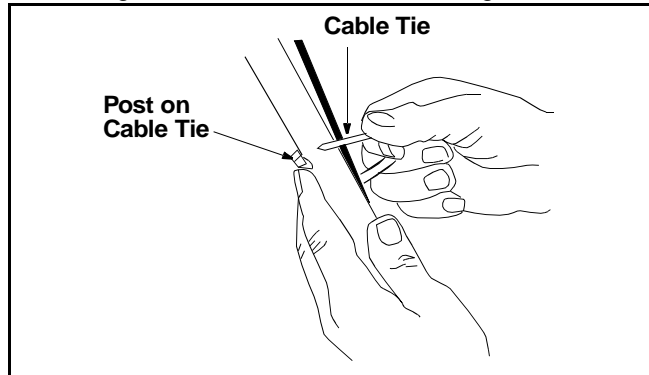


Figure 5

## Attaching Starter Rope

The rope guide is already attached to the right side of the upper handle of your mower. See Figure 6 .

- With the spark plug wire disconnected and grounded, hold the blade control handle against the upper handle, and pull the starter rope up to the rope guide. See Figure 6.
- Slip the rope through the rope guide as shown below. Tighten the wing nut holding the rope guide to the upper handle.

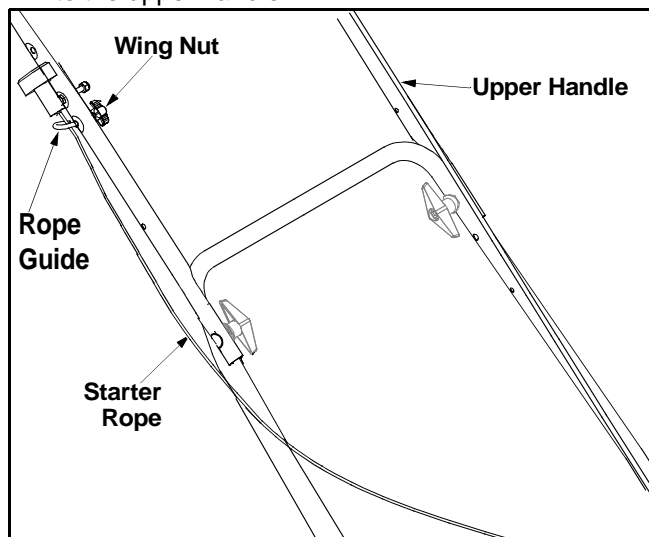


Figure 6

## Grass Catcher Assembly

**NOTE:** Make certain the grass bag is turned right side out before assembling (warning label will be on the outside).

### Parts for soft grass bag

1. Front Frame
2. Rear Frame
3. Bag

### Assembling soft grass bag

- Join the rear frame and front frame assembly as shown in Figure 7A.
- Place the bag over the frame (black plastic side is the bottom of bag). Slip the openings in the side of the plastic channels on the bag over the hooks on the grass catcher frame.
- Secure bag to frame by working the plastic channels on bag over frame as shown in Figure 7B. All of the plastic channels except the center top of the bag attach from the outside of bag. The center top of the bag attaches from inside the bag.

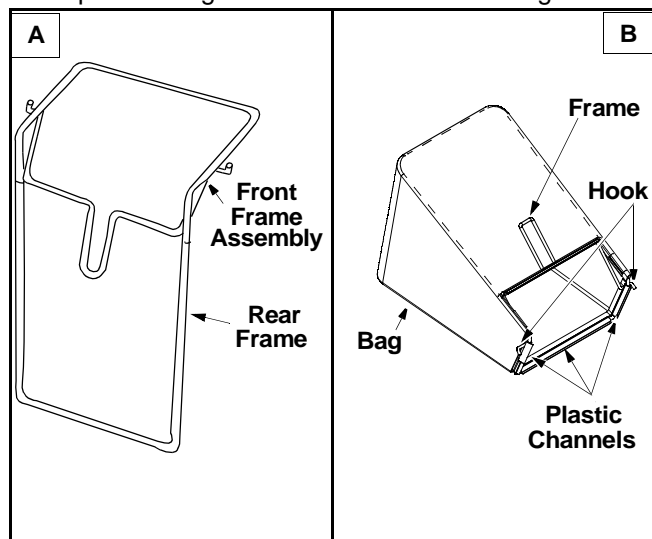


Figure 7

### Attaching Grass Catcher

- If your mower is equipped with a rear baffle, and it is in place on the mower, lift the rear discharge door and remove it from the mower. See Figure 8 .

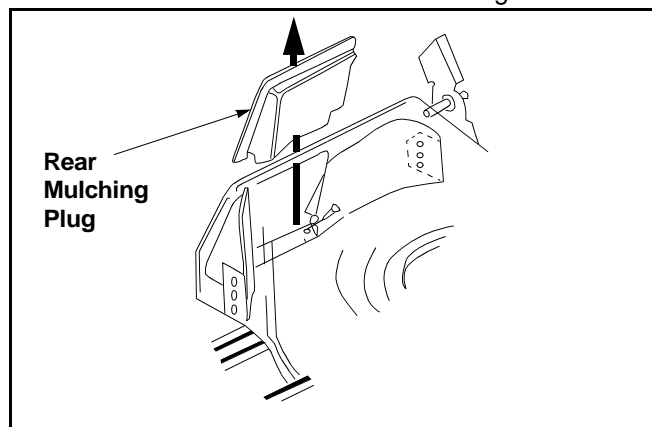


Figure 8

**NOTE:** Make sure that the cables are routed to the outside of the handle when attaching the grass catcher.

- Lift the rear discharge door.
- Place the hooks of the grass catcher into the slots in the handle bracket assemblies on both sides. See Figure 9 .
- Release the rear discharge door.



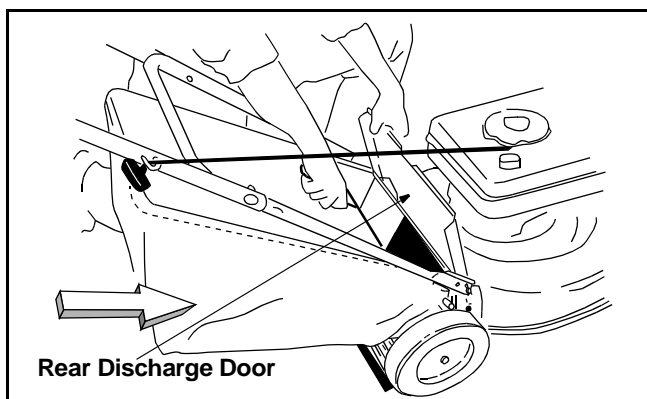


Figure 9

#### Removing Grass Catcher

- Lift the rear discharge door on the mower.
- Lift the grass catcher up, out of the slots in the handle bracket assemblies.
- Reinstall the plastic rear baffle.
- Release the rear discharge door.



**WARNING:** Never operate the mower unless the hooks on the grass catcher are seated in the slots on the handle bracket assemblies, and the rear discharge door rests firmly against the top of the grass catcher.

## Converting to Side Discharge

- Your mower has been shipped as a mulcher. To convert it to a side-discharge mower, lift the mulching plug. Slide the two hooks on the side-discharge deflector under the hinge pin on the mulching plug assembly. Lower the mulching plug. See Figure 10.
- Do not remove the side mulching plug at any time, even when you are not mulching.

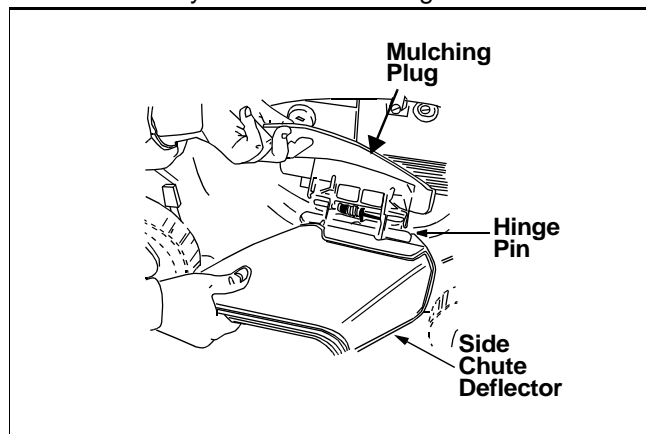


Figure 10

## SECTION 4: KNOW YOUR LAWN MOWER

Read this owner's manual and safety rules before operating your lawn mower. Compare the illustrations in Figure 11 with your lawn mower to familiarize yourself with the location of various controls and adjustments.

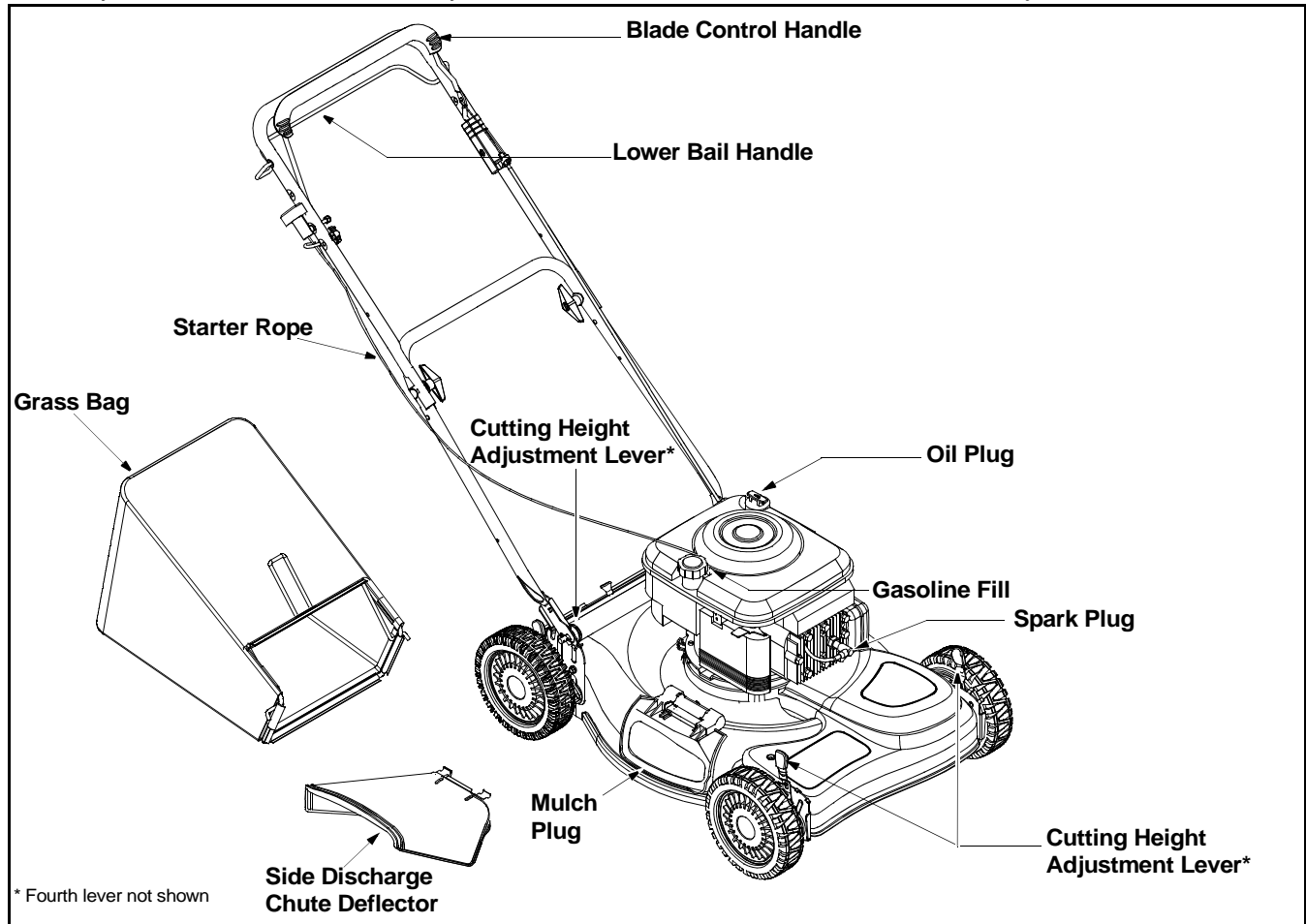


Figure 11

### Recoil Starter

The recoil starter is attached to the handle. Stand behind the unit and pull the starter rope to start the unit.

### Primer

The primer is used to pump gas into the carburetor. Use it to assist in starting a cold engine, but do not use it when restarting a warm engine after a short shutdown. Refer to engine manual for location of the primer.

### Blade Control Handle

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



**WARNING:** The blade control handle is a safety device. Never attempt to bypass its operations. The blade will be rotating whenever the engine is running.

### Lower Bail Handle

The lower bail handle is located on the upper handle and is used to engage the drive. Squeeze the bail handle against the upper handle to engage the drive; release it to slow down or stop the mower from propelling.

### Throttle Control

The engine is equipped with a constant speed throttle which is set at full throttle for maximum engine and cutting performance.

### Grass Bag

Use the grass catcher bag to collect clippings while you are operating the mower. The grass clippings will automatically collect in the bag as you run the mower.

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## SECTION 5: OPERATING YOUR LAWN MOWER

### Gas and Oil Fill-Up



**WARNING:** Never fill fuel tank indoors, or when engine is running or hot. Do not smoke when filling up the fuel tank.

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

### Before Starting Mower

- Attach spark plug wire to spark plug. Make certain the metal cap on the end of the spark plug wire is fastened securely over the metal tip on the spark plug.

### Starting Engine



**WARNING:** Be sure no one other than the operator is standing near the lawn mower while starting engine or operating mower.

**WARNING:** Never run engine indoors or in enclosed, poorly ventilated areas. Engine exhaust contains carbon monoxide, an odorless and deadly gas.

**WARNING:** Keep hands, feet, hair and loose clothing away from any moving parts on engine and lawn mower.

- Push the primer three times. Wait two seconds between each push. In temperatures below 55° F, prime five times. Do not prime to restart a warm engine after a short shutdown.
- Standing behind the mower, depress the blade control handle and hold it against the upper handle.
- Grasp starter handle and pull rope out slowly until engine reaches start of compression cycle (rope will pull slightly harder at this point). Let the rope rewind slowly. Pull rope with a rapid, continuous, full arm stroke. Keeping a firm grip on the starter handle, let the rope rewind slowly.
- Once the engine has started, squeeze the lower bail handle and the blade control handle against the upper handle to run the mower.

### Stopping Engine

- Release blade control handle to stop the engine and the blade.
- Disconnect spark plug wire and move away from spark plug to prevent accidental starting.

### Using Your Lawn Mower

- **Do not** operate the mower without the mulching cover, the grass catcher bag, or the discharge chute properly installed.
- Be sure that the lawn is clear of stones, sticks, wire, or other objects which could damage lawn mower or engine. Such objects could be accidentally thrown by the mower in any direction and cause serious personal injury to the operator and others.
- For best results, *do not cut wet grass* because it tends to stick to the underside of the mower, preventing proper discharge of grass clippings, poor mulching conditions, and could cause you to slip and fall. New grass, thick grass, or wet grass may require a narrower cut.
- For a *healthy lawn*, always cut off one-third or less of the total length of the grass. Lawn should be trimmed in fall as long as there is growth.



**WARNING:** If you strike a foreign object, stop the engine. Remove spark plug wire from spark plug, thoroughly inspect the mower for any damage. 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.

### Adjusting Cutting Height

Refer to page 14 for instruction on how to adjust the handle height and the cutting height.

- For best results in mowing, keep the cutting height position high until you have determined which cutting height is preferred.

### Bagging Grass Clippings

You can use the grass catcher bag to collect clippings while you are operating the mower.

- Attach the grass catcher following instructions on page 8 of this manual. The grass clippings will automatically collect in the bag as you run the mower.
- Operate the mower till the grass bag is full.
- Stop the engine completely by releasing the control handle.
- Make sure that the unit has come to a complete stop.
- Lift discharge door and pull grass bag up and away from the mower to dispose of the grass clippings.

## SECTION 6: MAINTAINING YOUR LAWN MOWER



**WARNING:** Always stop the engine and disconnect the spark plug wire before performing any maintenance work or adjustments on your lawn mower.

### Cleaning the Mower

- Clean the underside of the mower deck after each use to prevent any build-up of grass clippings. If this debris is allowed to accumulate, it will result in rust and corrosion.

**NOTE:** We do not recommend the use of pressure washers or garden hose to clean your unit. These may cause damage to electric components, spindles, pulleys, bearings or the engine. The use of water will result in shortened life and reduced serviceability.

- Disconnect spark plug wire.
- Drain the gasoline from the lawn mower, or place a piece of plastic under the gas cap.
- Tilt the mower so that the side with the air cleaner is facing up. Hold the mower firmly.
- Scrape and clean the underside of the deck with a suitable tool. Do not spray with water.
- Put the mower back on its wheels. If you had put plastic under the gas cap, remove it now.



**WARNING:** Never tip the mower more than 90 degrees in any direction and do not leave the mower tipped for any length of time. Oil can drain into the upper part of the engine causing a starting problem.

### Engine Maintenance

A list of key maintenance jobs required for good performance by the mower is given below. Follow the accompanying engine manual for detailed list and instructions.

- Change engine oil after the first two operating hours and every 25 operating hours thereafter. Check oil level before starting engine every time.
- Service foam filter in the air cleaner every 25 hours of use and replace the paper filter component every 100 hours. You may have to service the air filter more frequently if you are operating the mower under extremely dusty conditions.
- Clean engine periodically with a cloth or brush.
- Clean the spark plug and reset the gap to .030" at least once a season or every 50 hours of operation. Spark plug replacement is recommended at the start of each season.
- Inspect muffler periodically, and replace if necessary. Damaged mufflers or spark arresters can create a fire hazard. Make sure to avoid muffler

and surrounding areas while the mower engine is hot because temperature of these areas of the engine may exceed 150° F.

### Lubrication (See Figure 12 )

#### Wheels

- Lubricate the wheels and bearings, if so equipped, at least once a season with light oil or engine 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.

#### Chute Deflector & Rear Discharge Door

- Lubricate the torsion spring and the pivot point on each end of the chute deflector and the rear discharge door using a light oil. This will prevent rusting and ensure that the deflector, which is a safety device, can always work properly.

#### Engine

- Follow the engine manual instructions and recommended schedule for lubricating engine components.

#### Pivot Points

- Lubricate the pivot points on the blade control handle, lower bail handle, and the cutting height adjustment lever at least once a season with light oil. The blade control handle and the lower bail handle must operate freely in both directions. The cutting height adjustment levers should be able to move easily.

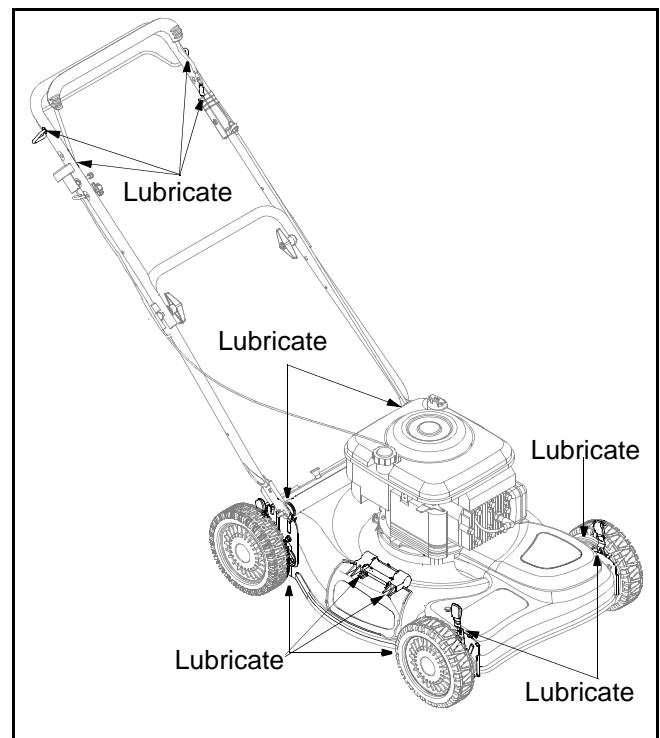


Figure 12

## SECTION 7: SERVICING YOUR MOWER

### Blade Care

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



**WARNING:** When removing the cutting blade for sharpening or replacement, protect hands by using heavy gloves or a thick rag to grasp the cutting blade.

- Disconnect spark plug wire from spark plug.
- Turn mower on its side making sure that the air filter and the carburetor are up.

#### To Remove Blade

- Remove the hex bolt which holds the blade adapter-pulley assembly to the engine crankshaft. See Figure 13 . Remove the pulley assembly, blade and the bell support from the crankshaft.
- Remove blade from the blade adapter-pulley assembly.

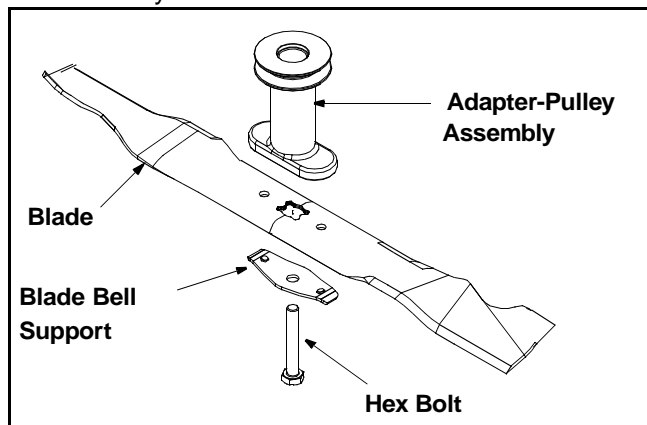


Figure 13

#### To Replace Blade:

- Before reinstalling the blade-pulley assembly to the unit, lubricate the engine crankshaft and the inner surface of the blade adapter with light oil.
- Also lubricate the bolt hole and the hex bolt.
- Insert the hex bolt, earlier removed, through the center hole on the blade bell support, blade and the blade adapter-pulley assembly respectively.
- Install the blade assembly on the crankshaft. Tighten the hex bolt to the recommended torque.

Refer to 'Blade Mounting Torque' information below.

**IMPORTANT:** The bolt used to secure the blade to the engine is specially heat-treated. **Do not substitute.** To order replacement bolt, refer to the parts list in the back of this manual.



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

#### Blade Mounting Torque:

Center bolt: 450 in.lbs. minimum, 600 in.lbs. maximum.

#### To Sharpen Blade:

- The blade can be sharpened with a file or on a grinding wheel. Do not attempt to sharpen the blade while it is still on the mower.
- Follow the original angle of grind as a guide. Make sure 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/or personal injury. Test the blade by balancing it on a round shaft screwdriver or a blade balancer.

- If the blade is not balanced, remove metal from the heavy side until it balances evenly.

### Replacing Drive Belt

- Remove two shoulder screws securing the front drive cover to the mower deck. See Figure 14 .
- Press inward on the sides of the front drive cover and release the tabs that secure the front drive cover to the height adjuster brackets. Remove drive cover from the mower.
- Using a torque wrench, loosen the screw holding the belt tension spring to the transmission. See Figure 14 . Do not remove the screw completely. As you loosen the screw, the tension on the belt will be released.
- Push the transmission up a little and slide the belt off the transmission pulley.
- Lift the mower to access the belt from the underside of the mower.

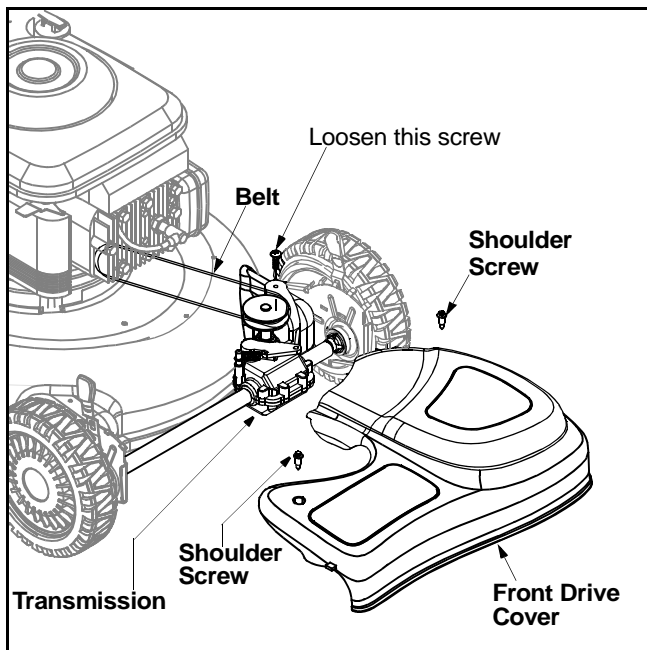


Figure 14

- Slide the belt off the engine pulley and around the blade. See Figure 15 .



**WARNING:** As always, use a thick piece of rag to handle the blade while sliding the belt around it. Make sure the engine does not start at all while doing this job.

- Replace with the new belt, working around the blade. Make sure the belt is firmly seated on the engine pulley while pulling from the other side and sliding it around the transmission pulley.
- Put the mower down with all four wheels firmly placed on one level.
- Tighten the screw, loosened earlier, to secure the belt tension spring to the transmission, and reassemble the front drive cover.

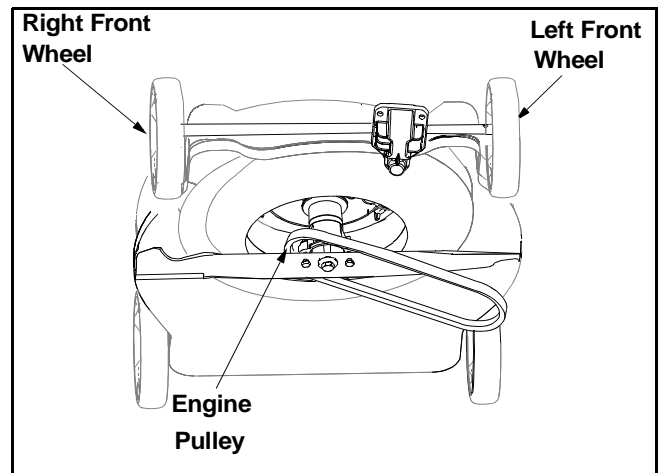


Figure 15

## Replacing Rear Flap

- To remove rear flap, cut off the flat end of the wire rod which secures it to the deck. See Figure 16 .
- Attach the new flap and new rod to deck, bending the ends of the new rod over to secure to deck.

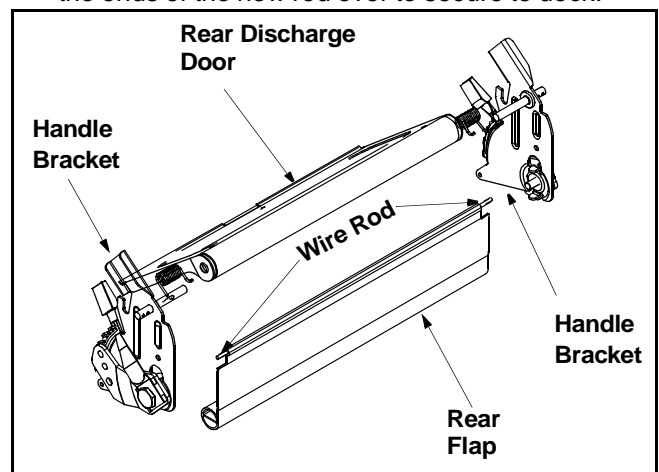


Figure 16

## SECTION 8: MAKING ADJUSTMENTS

### Handle Height

Your mower is shipped with the handle in the higher height position. To lower height, proceed as follows.

- Remove the starter rope from the rope guide.
- Remove the upper handle by removing the hand knobs and carriage bolts. Lay the upper handle out of the way, being careful not to bend or kink cables.
- Remove the hairpin clips from the weld pins on the handle brackets. Refer to Figure 4 . Press out on the legs of the lower handle. Remove lower handle from the mower.
- Turn lower handle around so the notch is facing forward as shown in Figure 17 . Reassemble, placing the bottom holes in the handle over the weld pins in the handle mounting bracket.
- Reassemble the upper handle to the lower handle.
- Insert hairpin clips in the inner holes of the weld pins and attach the starter rope as instructed in "Assembling Your Lawn Mower" section.

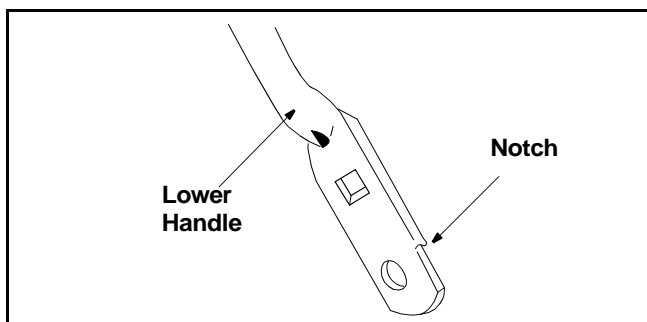


Figure 17

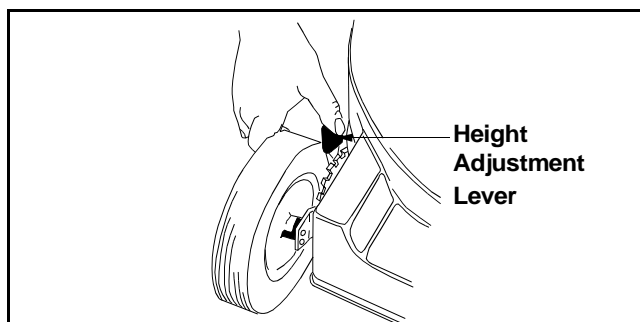


Figure 18

## Cutting Height

**IMPORTANT:** All wheels must be placed in the same relative position.

- For rough or uneven lawns, move the height adjustment lever to a higher position. This will help stop scalping of the grass.

An adjusting plate and thumb lever at each wheel position provides cutting height adjustment. Each adjusting plate has nine height positions. Height of cut will change when you move the thumb lever from one position to another.

- Simply depress the lever towards the wheel and move the lever assembly to desired position. See Figure 18.

## Carburetor



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

**NOTE:** A dirty air cleaner may cause an engine to run rough too. Make sure that the air cleaner is clean and attached to the carburetor before deciding to adjust the carburetor.

To adjust carburetor, please follow the engine manual.

## SECTION 9: OFF-SEASON STORAGE

Prepare your lawn mower for storage at the **end of the season** or if it will not be used for **30 days or more**.

### Mower

- Clean underside of the mower following instructions on page 12.

**NOTE:** We do not recommend the use of pressure washers or garden hose to clean your unit. They may cause damage to electric components, spindles, pulleys, bearings or the engine. The use of water will result in shortened life and reduce serviceability.

- Lubricate the mower as instructed on page 12.
- You can fold your mower's handle for convenience of storage:  
Remove the starter rope from the rope guide; loosen the two hand knobs on the sides of the handle, and let the upper handle fold down to the rear. Move the hairpin clips to the outer hole in the weld pins on the handle mounting brackets. Spread sides of the lower handle, and push it forward and down.
- Inspect and replace/sharpen blade, if required. Refer to page 13.

### Gasoline

- Do not store gasoline from one season to another.

**NOTE:** Gasoline, stored for more than one month, may affect engine performance. So use fresh gasoline.

- Replace your gasoline can if it starts to rust. Rust and/or dirt in the gasoline will cause problems.

### Engine

- Clean engine and remove any grass clippings, dirt, and debris from the cooling fins, air intake screen, levers, linkage and the exterior of the engine.
- Follow recommendations in engine manual for off-season storage of the engine.
- Change oil as stated in the engine manual.

### Storage

- Store unit in a clean, dry area. Do not store next to corrosive materials, such as fertilizer or rocksalt.
- If storing the mower in an unventilated or metal storage shed, make sure to rustproof the equipment with a light oil or silicone.

## SECTION 10: TROUBLE-SHOOTING GUIDE

Problem	Possible Cause	Corrective Action
Engine fails to start	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Blade control handle disengaged</li> <li>2. Spark plug wire disconnected</li> <li>3. Fuel tank empty, or stale fuel</li> <li>4. Blocked fuel line</li> <li>5. Faulty spark plug</li> <li>6. Engine flooded</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Engage blade control handle</li> <li>2. Connect wire to spark plug</li> <li>3. Fill up tank with fresh gasoline</li> <li>4. Clean fuel line</li> <li>5. Clean, adjust gap, or replace</li> <li>6. Wait a few minutes and start again</li> </ol>
Engine runs erratic	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Spark plug wire loose</li> <li>2. Blocked fuel line or stale fuel</li> <li>3. Vent in gas cap plugged</li> <li>4. Water or dirt in fuel system</li> <li>5. Dirty air cleaner</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Connect and tighten spark plug wire</li> <li>2. Clean fuel line, fill tank with fresh gas</li> <li>3. Clear vent</li> <li>4. Drain fuel tank. Refill with fresh fuel</li> <li>5. Clean air cleaner. Refer to engine manual</li> </ol>
Engine overheats	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Engine oil level low</li> <li>2. Air flow restricted</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Fill crankcase with proper oil</li> <li>2. Clean lawn mower engine</li> </ol>
Occasional skip at high speed	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Spark plug gap too close</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Adjust gap to .030 inches</li> </ol>
Idles poorly	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Spark plug fouled, faulty, or gap too wide</li> <li>2. Dirty air cleaner</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reset gap to .030 inches or replace spark plug</li> <li>2. Clean air cleaner</li> </ol>
Excessive vibration	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cutting blade loose or unbalanced</li> <li>2. Bent cutting blade</li> <li>3. Bent engine crankshaft</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tighten blade and adapter, balance blade</li> <li>2. Replace blade</li> <li>3. Contact your nearest service center</li> </ol>
Mower will not mulch grass	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Wet grass</li> <li>2. Excessively high grass</li> <li>3. Dull blade</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Wait until grass is dry to cut</li> <li>2. Mow once at a high cutting height, then mow again at desired height</li> <li>3. Sharpen or replace blade</li> </ol>
Uneven cut	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Wheels not in same height position</li> <li>2. Dull blade</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reposition all wheels at same height</li> <li>2. Sharpen or replace blade</li> </ol>

**NOTE:** For repairs beyond the minor adjustments listed above, contact your nearest authorized service dealer. Refer to separate engine manual packed with your mower for more engine related information.



## NOTES