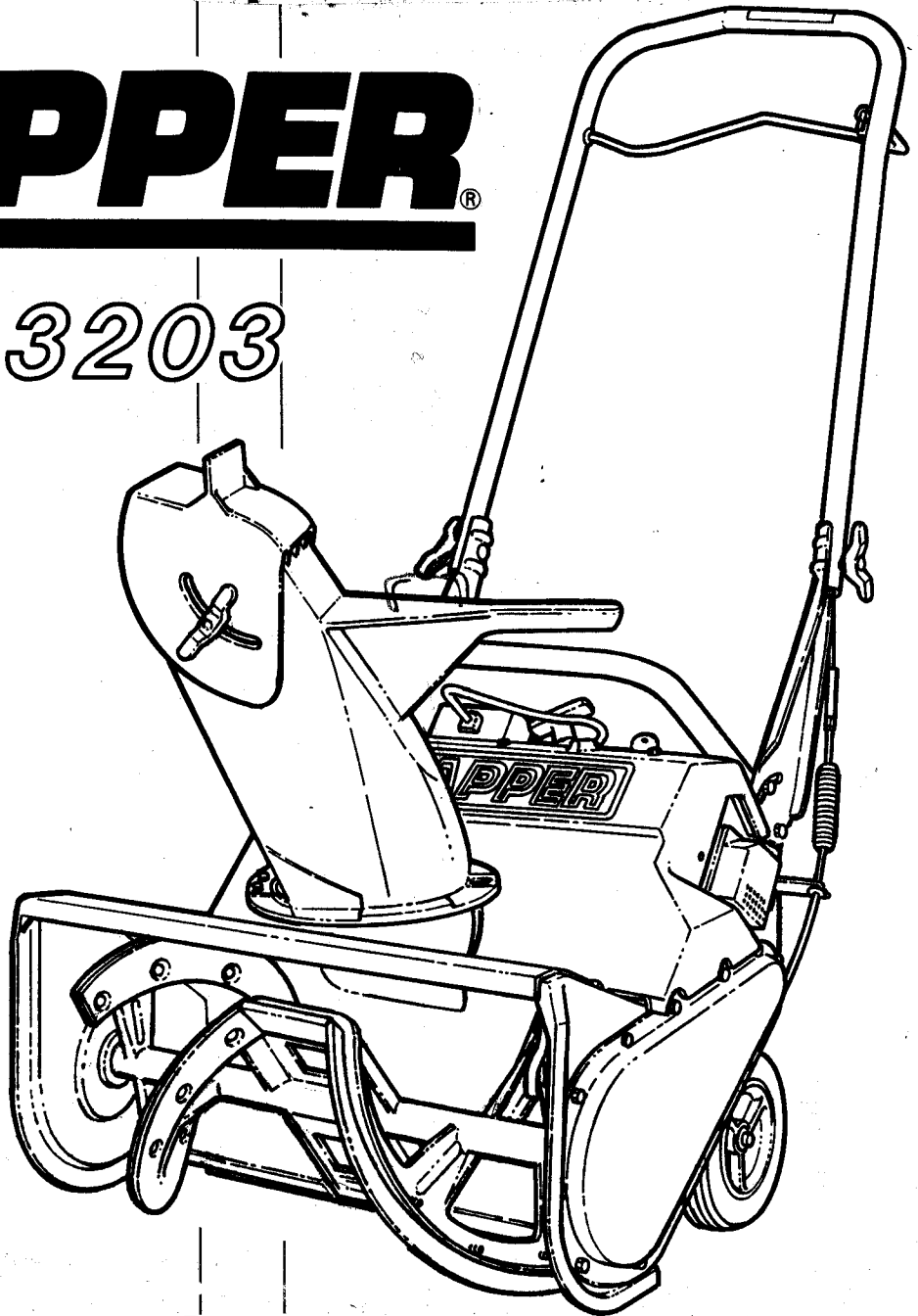


# Safety Instructions & Operator's Manual for

# **SNAPPER**

## MODEL 3203



## **SNOW THROWERS**

THANK YOU for buying a SNAPPER product! Your SNAPPER SNOW THROWER was designed and built to provide long and satisfactory service. Keep in mind that it, like any other mechanical device, can be potentially dangerous if used improperly and that no accident prevention program can be successful without the wholehearted co-

operation of the person responsible for the operation of the equipment. Study this Operator's Manual carefully to learn about operation of all controls and pay particular attention to the Important Safety Precautions on Page 2. Following these instructions will help you continue to enjoy the trouble-free operation expected of a SNAPPER product.

**SNAPPER POWER EQUIPMENT**  
McDonough, GA., 30253 U.S.A.





# SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS



**WARNING:** This powerful snow thrower is capable of amputating hands and feet and of throwing objects causing injury. Read this manual carefully and question your Snapper Dealer if something is not clear. Should the dealer be unable to answer to your satisfaction, send a letter to the Snapper Customer Service Department at Snapper Power Equipment, Post Office Box 777, McDonough, Georgia 30253, or Phone 1-404-957-9141.

## PROTECTION FOR CHILDREN

1. DO NOT allow children in area when Snow Thrower is being operated.
2. DO NOT allow pre-teen children to operate Snow Thrower.
3. DO NOT allow irresponsible teenagers to operate the machine — allow teenager only if exhibiting mature judgement and then only after thorough instruction and under close supervision of an experienced operator.

## PREPARATION

1. Read this manual, get to know where all controls are located and practice how to use them before starting for the first time and at the beginning of each season. Pay attention to Decals on engine and snow thrower.
2. Wear protective clothing including face mask and boots which will give you maximum footing on slippery surfaces.
3. Before the first snow fall, check the area to be cleared and remove all objects such as doormats, sticks, toys, wires, rocks, etc., which could be hurled or jam the snow thrower.
4. Survey the area to be cleared beforehand and plan where snow is to be blown. Be prepared to release blower clutch or to change deflector quickly to discharge away from windows, cars, buildings and doorways to avoid property damage or personal injury from hurled objects.
5. Handle fuel with care. Store only in approved gasoline container. Move machine outdoors where fumes can be safely dissipated before filling tank. Never add fuel when engine is running. Allow cooling off period after stopping to avoid spilled fuel from igniting on contact with hot engine parts.

## OPERATIONAL PRECAUTIONS

1. Before starting, make visual check to make sure blower housing is clear and all guards and shields are in place and tight.
2. Warn everyone in advance to stay clear of area but keep especially watchful for children and pets darting into area while operating.
3. Start engine only when exhaust fumes can be dissipated, allow brief warm-up period, practice operation of controls outside before putting the machine to work.
4. Should the blower become clogged, release auger clutch control and, as an additional precaution, stop the engine before attempting to unclog the collector or discharge chute.
5. If you strike a hard object, stop the engine and disconnect the spark plug wire before inspecting for damage.
6. Stop the engine if unit starts to vibrate excessively as this normally indicates mechanical problems. Disconnect the spark plug wire to prevent unintentional starting before servicing or repairing the machine.
7. Avoid clearing steep slopes and keep away from drop-off areas where footing is doubtful or where the machine could tip over. Clear snow across the face of slopes whenever possible.
8. Stop the engine and remove the key whenever you leave the unit unattended to eliminate the possibility of children or untrained adults attempting to operate the machine.
9. Release clutch control and make sure auger has stopped before rotating discharge chute, adjusting deflector, or placing hands near auger.

# OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

## PRE-MIX FUEL (32 to 1 RATIO)

For proper lubrication, the engine must operate on an exact mixture of gasoline and 2 cycle air-cooled engine oil. Use a 32 to 1 mixture. Use a good quality regular grade leaded or unleaded gasoline and SNAPPER special formulated 2-cycle engine oil. Do not use the special 50:1 ratio oils. The 32 to 1 ratio equals 4 ounces of oil to each gallon (U.S. Standard) of gasoline, (or 16 oz. to 4 gallons gasoline). Refer to the following chart for correct 32 to 1 ratio mixtures:

Pre-Mix the fuel in an approved container while observing all safety precautions relating to handling of fuel. Add some gasoline to the container first then the oil. Close the container and shake vigorously to thoroughly mix the fuel; open the container and add the remaining amount of gasoline to correct the ratio. Shake the container to mix the fuel each time before filling the blower fuel tank. **DO NOT** add fuel to unit while hot...allow engine to cool.

### 32:1 RATIO - U.S. STANDARD FLUID MEASUREMENTS

| GALLONS GASOLINE*  | 1 | 2 | 3  | 4  | 5  |
|--------------------|---|---|----|----|----|
| OUNCES 2-CYCLE OIL | 4 | 8 | 12 | 16 | 20 |

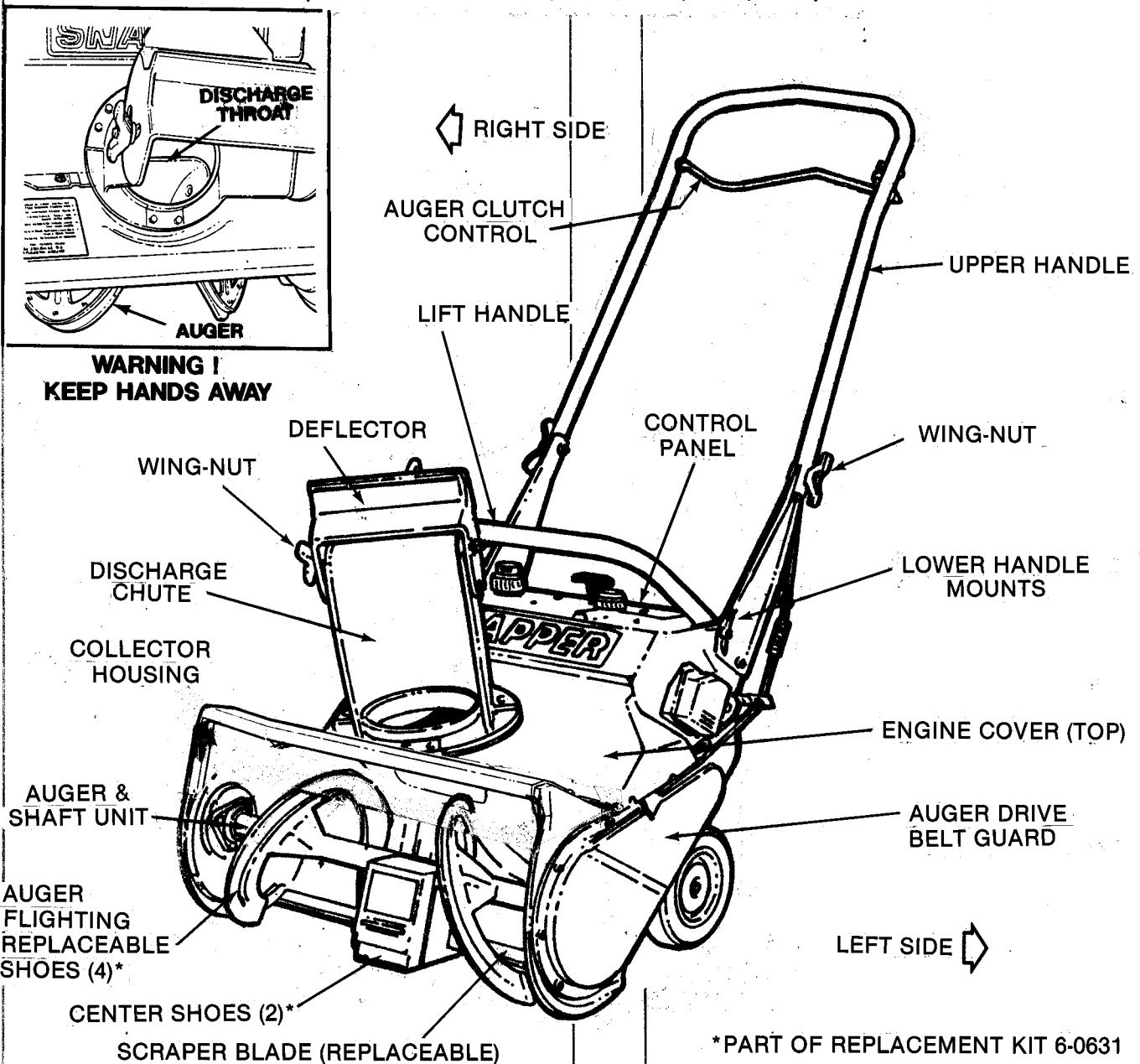


FIGURE 1-LOCATION OF CONTROLS & FEATURES (FRONT VIEW)

(OVER)

## OPERATION (Continued)

The Snapper model 3203 single stage Snow Thrower is powered by a 3HP two cycle engine which requires an exact mixture of oil and gasoline to provide internal lubrication of the engine.

Refer to the engine manual which accompanies your unit for the specific fuel ratio and other important details.

Save these manuals and review at the start of each new season. Pay particular attention to the important Safety Instructions and to the warning decals on the unit.

Know how to stop the auger and engine quickly in preparation for possible emergencies! The auger is stopped by releasing the auger clutch control and the engine is stopped by turning the key in ignition switch to off position.

### PRE-START CHECKS

● FUEL with unit safely away from ignition producing appliances and in well ventilated area where fumes can be dissipated, fill fuel tank with correct gasoline/oil mixture as specified in the engine owner's manual.

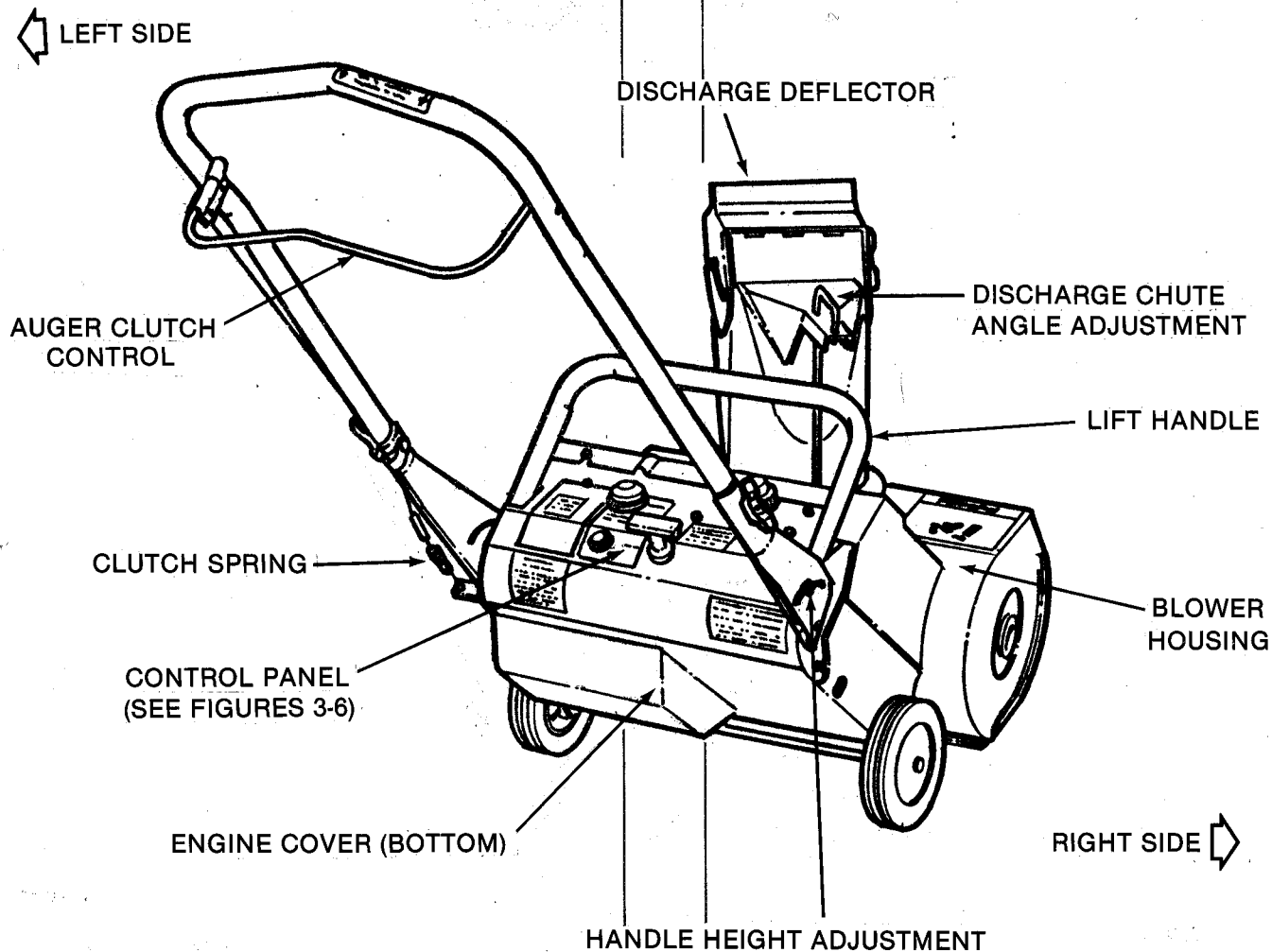


FIGURE 2-LOCATION OF CONTROLS & FEATURES (REAR VIEW)

The 3203 will clear a path approximately twenty inches wide and will throw the snow from 3 to 18 feet away depending on the setting of the discharge deflector and conditions of the snow. The light weight of the unit allows easy lifting for sweeping steps and porches. The 1 quart capacity tank holds sufficient fuel for 1 to 1-½ hours operation depending upon load conditions.

● CHECK GUARDS & COVERS to make sure all are in position and securely tightened.

● CHECK AUGER CLUTCH to make sure control operates freely without binding.

● CHECK BLOWER HOUSING to make sure it is completely free of rags, toys or other objects which could be thrown or block operation of the auger.

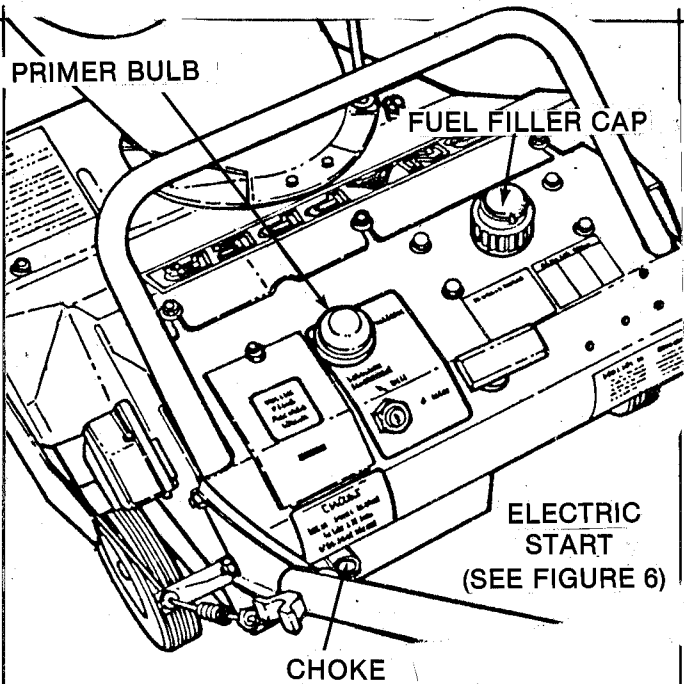


FIG. 3 - LOCATION OF PANEL CONTROLS

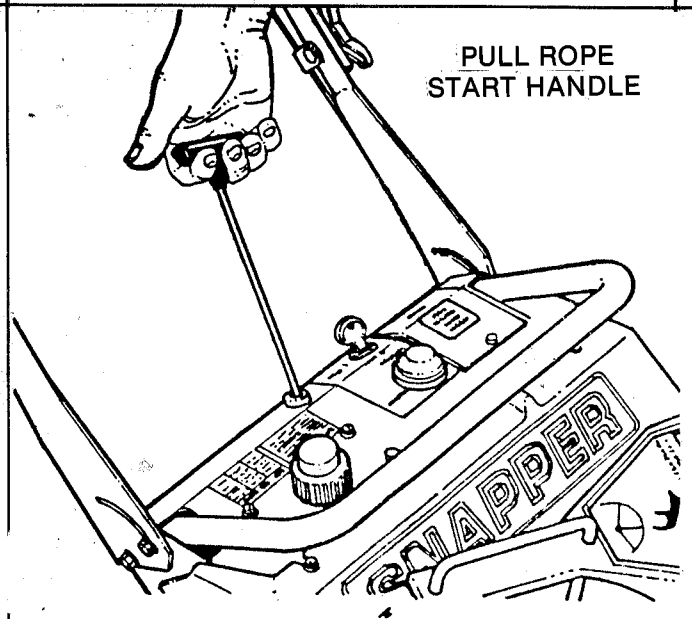


FIG. 5 - MANUAL START PROCEDURE

### START-STOP PROCEDURE

**STARTING-STOPPING ENGINE:** The engine is stopped by turning the ignition key to OFF. Always remove the key from the switch when leaving the machine. Start the engine as follows after performing the foregoing pre-start checks and services.

1. PRIME engine as instructed in the engine owners manual.
2. CHOKE by pulling choke control out.
3. IGNITION: turn engine ignition key to ON.

4. ROPE START: Pull starter handle with smooth rapid movement until engine starts. If engine fires but does not start after repeated attempts, push choke control in and pull starter handle again. Do not allow handle to snap back.

5. ELECTRIC START (OPTION) Connect power cord to starter switch box on panel then plug the other end into a 120 volt AC receptacle. Push starter button in until engine starts---do not hold button for more than twenty seconds to avoid damaging starting motor. After engine starts, disconnect power cord from the AC receptacle first then unplug from the switch box on the snow thrower.

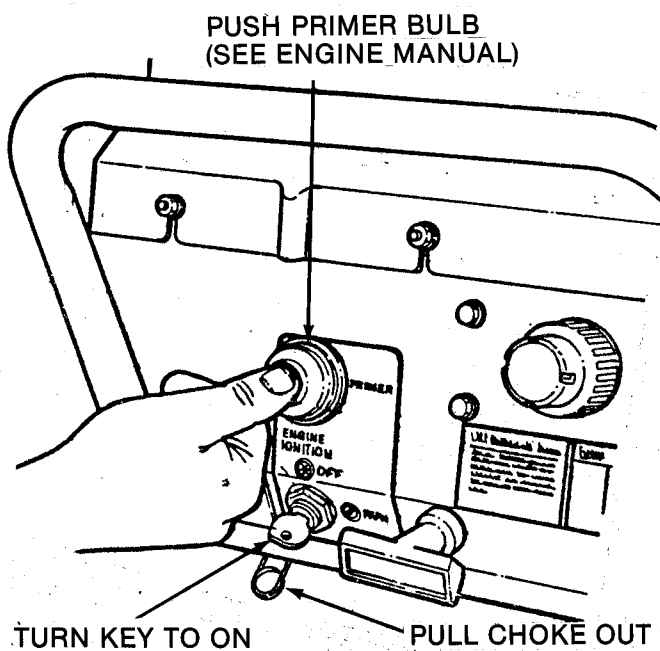


FIG. 4 - STARTING PROCEDURE

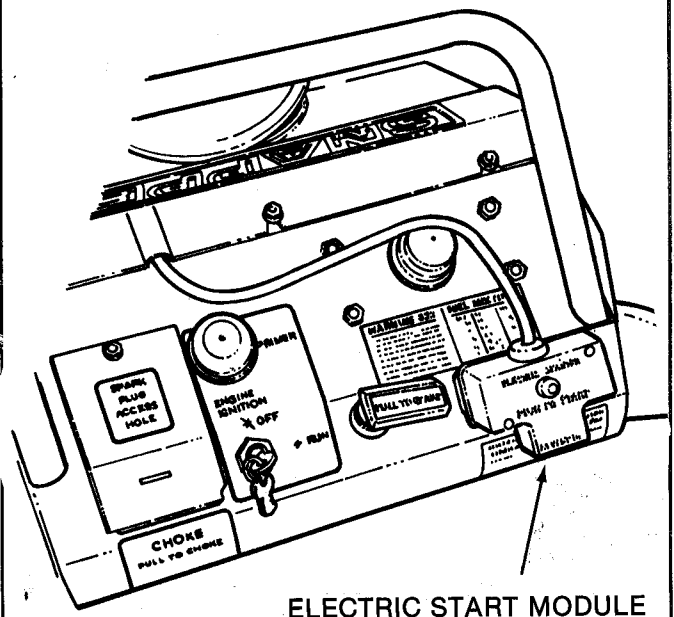


FIG. 6 - ELECTRIC START PROCEDURE

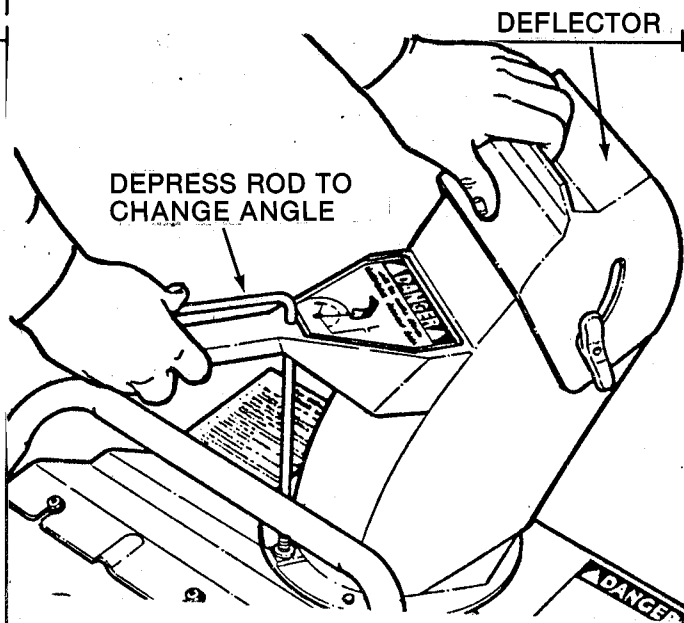


FIG. 7 - DISCHARGE ADJUSTMENTS

**OPERATIONAL HINTS**

After the engine has warmed sufficiently, start the augers by pulling the auger clutch control back to the handle. Release the control to stop the augers.

The rubber strips attached to the edges of the augers help pull the Snow Thrower forward. Push down on the handles to raise the strips above the surface to stop forward motion. In especially heavy snow, moving the Snow Thrower back and forth may help clear the first path. Overlap as needed to suit snow conditions.



FIG. 8 - STOP BEFORE ADJUSTING CHUTE

CABLE SPRING SHOULD EXTEND 3/8 TO 1/2"

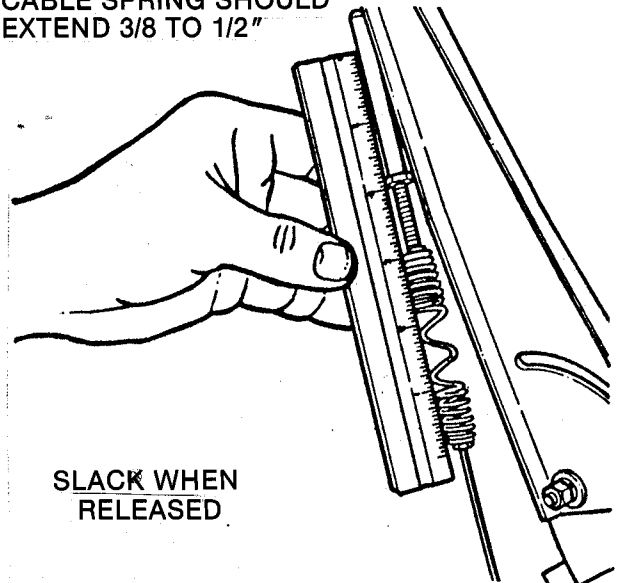


FIG. 9 - AUGER CLUTCH ADJUSTMENT

**SERVICE PROCEDURE**

Contact your Snapper Dealer for service assistance and/or replacement parts for your Snow Thrower. Contact the engine dealer for engine service.

**AUGER CLUTCH ADJUSTMENT:** Pull the clutch control up against the handle & note the cable. If the cable is slack with the control held against the handle, release the control, loosen the nut & increase the tension by turning the cable or turn buckle on lower end. Proper idler tension is achieved when cable spring is extended 3/8 to 1/2" when clutch con-

BELT GUARD REMOVED FOR SERVICE

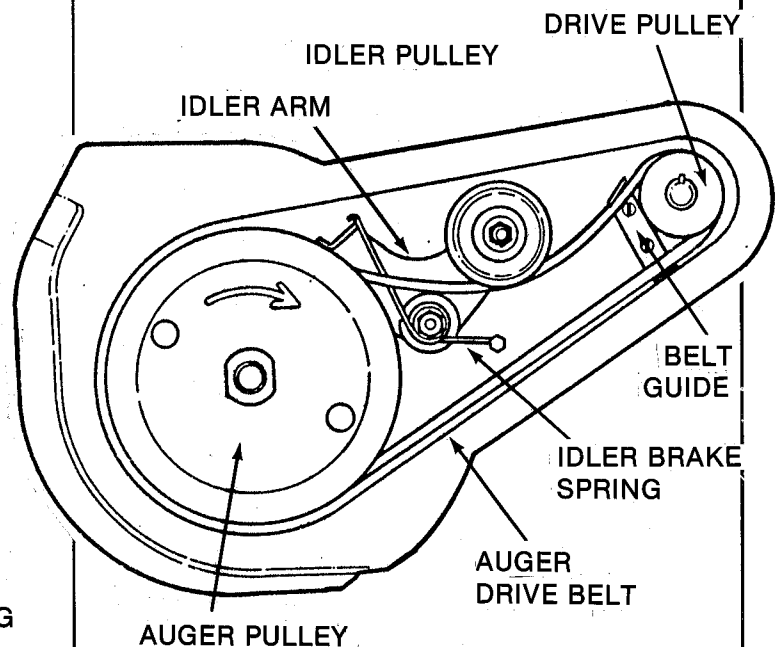


FIG. 10 - AUGER DRIVE ARRANGEMENT

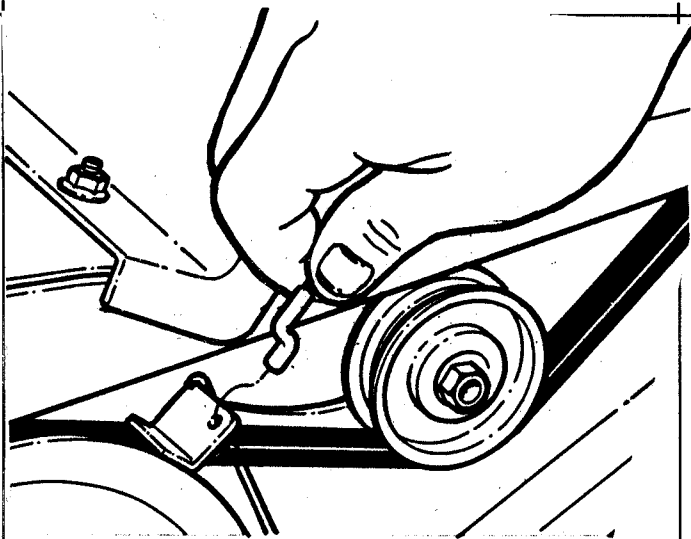


FIG. 11 - CLUTCH LINKAGE CONNECTION

HOLD AUGER &  
TURN PULLEY IN  
DIRECTION OF  
ARROW TO LOOSEN

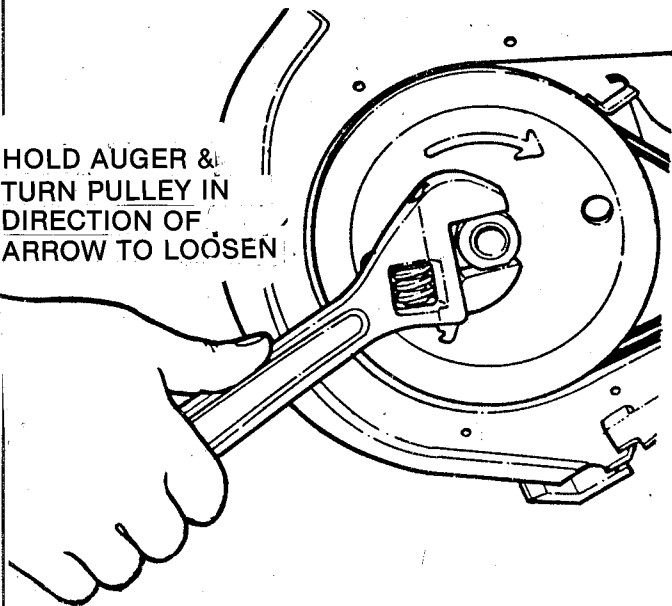


FIG. 12 - AUGER PULLEY DETAIL

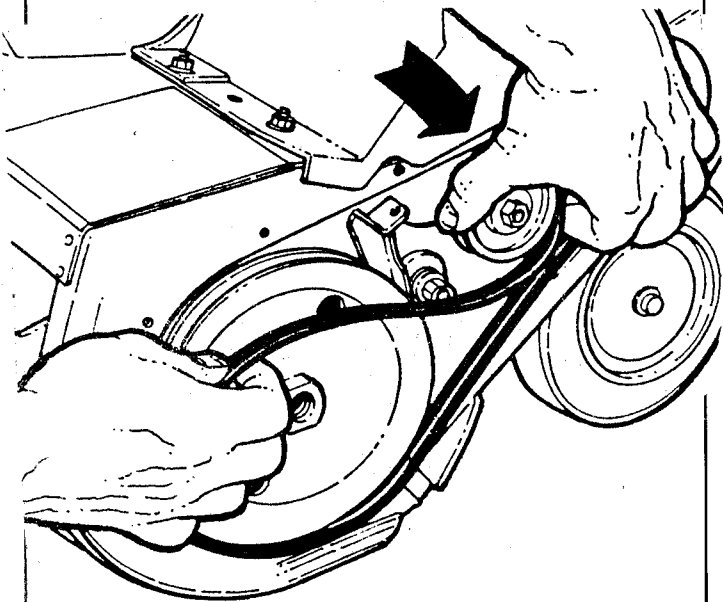


FIG. 13 - BELT INSTALLATION

Control is held against handle. Release clutch control & note cable. The cable should be slack with control released.

If auger does not clutch properly with bail released after above adjustment, it may be necessary to adjust belt fingers inside belt drive housing. Remove cover by removing #10 fasteners. Belt fingers are at upper end near engine pulley. With bail drawn up to handle, belt should clear lower finger by 1/16". If adjustment is necessary, loosen belt finger screws and slide up or down as required. Further adjustment is achieved by bending fingers. Note: Complete clutching action: Idler releases, brake is applied & belt comes free of driver.

TO FOLD HANDLES, LOOSEN WINGNUTS AND BOLTS IN LOWER HANDLE MOUNTS.

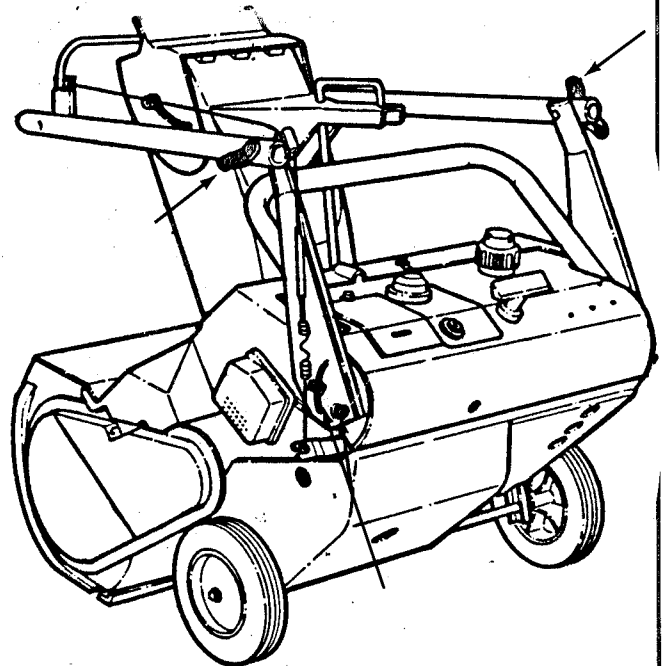


FIG. 14 - HANDLES FOLDED FOR STORAGE

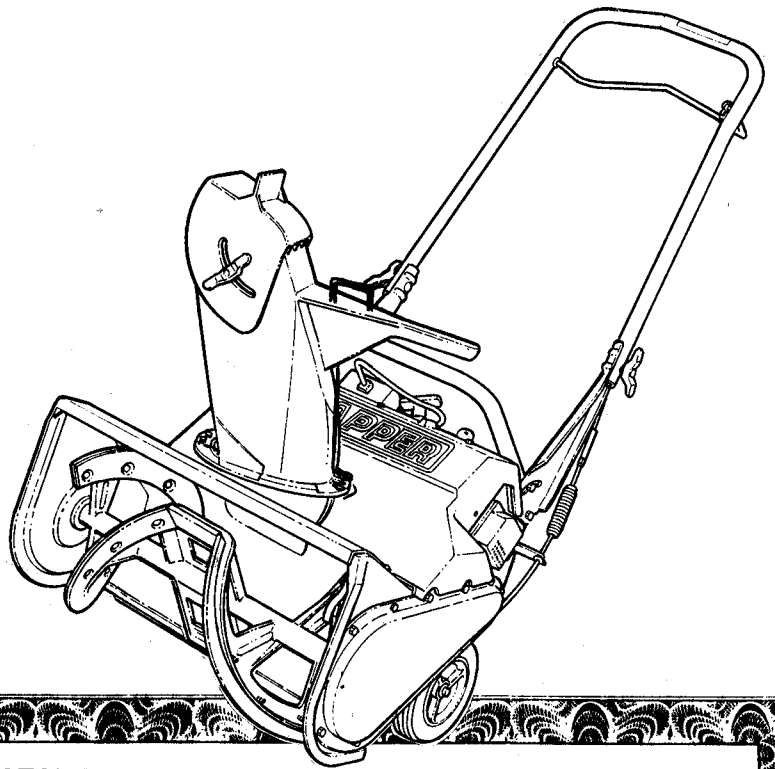
**BELT REPLACEMENT:** Should the belt need replacing, remove the belt guard, loosen the large 6" auger pulley just enough to slip the old belt off and the new belt on, then retighten after routing the belt over the pulleys. **NOTE:** The auger pulley is loosened by turning clockwise and tightened by turning counterclockwise which is the opposite of normal direction. Reinstall the belt cover. Check and readjust clutch cable tension as needed after operating for a few hours as the new belt may stretch or wear in. Use Snapper part number 1-4637 belt.

#### STORAGE-OFF SEASON

Before storing the unit for the off season, operate the engine until it runs out of fuel. If this is not done, oil in the gasoline will gather in the carburetor making starting very difficult at the beginning of the next season. Refer to the engine owner's manual for specific storage instructions. Cover the unit and store in clean, dry area.

# **SNAPPER**

## **MODEL 3203 SNOW THROWERS**



### **SNAPPER TOTAL PROTECTION FULL TWO-YEAR WARRANTY -Non-Commercial Users-**

For two (2) years from purchase date for the original purchaser's RESIDENTIAL, NON-COMMERCIAL use, SNAPPER, through any SNAPPER dealer, will repair or replace, free of charge, any part or parts found to be defective in material or workmanship or both.

All transportation costs incurred in returning the product to a SNAPPER dealer must be borne by the purchaser.

SNAPPER further guarantees for residential, non-commercial use only, that this product will perform its intended function for two (2) years or it will be repaired at no charge, no questions asked, provided that,

1. The purchaser uses and maintains the equipment as specified in the Owner/Operator manuals.
2. The purchaser has the equipment serviced annually by a qualified dealer (cost of service to be paid by purchaser).

What is not covered:

Regular maintenance as outlined in the Owner/Operator manuals (i.e., tune ups, blade sharpening, oil changes, problems caused by the use of stale or contaminated fuel, dirty air cleaners or fouled spark plug).

There is no other express warranty.

Liability for incidental and consequential damages are excluded. Some states do not allow the exclusion of incidental or consequential damages, so this exclusion may not apply to you.

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

### **LIMITED WARRANTY -Commercial Users-**

For ninety (90) days from the original purchase date of this product for your commercial use, SNAPPER, through an authorized SNAPPER dealer will repair the product free of charge, if it is found to be defective in material or workmanship.

All transportation costs incurred in returning the product to a SNAPPER dealer must be borne by the purchaser.

There is no other express warranty.

Implied warranties, including those of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose are limited to ninety (90) days from the original purchase date. Some states do not allow limitations on how long an implied warranty lasts, so the above limitation may not apply to you.

Liability for incidental and consequential damages are excluded. Some states do not allow the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages, so the above exclusion may not apply to you.

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

**USE OF REPLACEMENT PARTS OTHER THAN GENUINE SNAPPER PARTS MAY IMPAIR THE SAFETY OR PERFORMANCE OF THE PRODUCT AND WILL VOID ANY LIABILITY AND WARRANTY ASSOCIATED WITH THE USE OF SUCH PARTS.**

**PLEASE COMPLETE THE ATTACHED SNAPPER PRODUCT REGISTRATION CARD AND PROMPTLY MAIL TO:  
SNAPPER'S PRODUCT REGISTRATION CENTER, 2761 KATHERINE WAY, ELK GROVE, IL. 60007-6746**