

Tanaka

Owner's Manual

Model Numbers:

TLE-550

EDGER

P/N 12850

Date 05-11-01



Supplier To The Outdoor Power Equipment Industry

Before using this unit:

- Read the operator's manual carefully.
- Check that the cutting equipment is correctly assembled and adjusted.
- Start the unit and check the carburetor adjustment. See "Maintenance".

WARNING

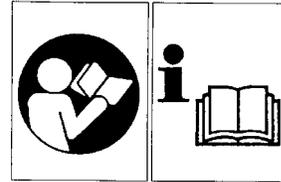
The engine exhaust from this product contains chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer, birth defects and other reproductive harm.



Always wear eye, head and ear protectors when using this unit.



Read, understand and follow all warnings and instructions in this manual and on the unit.



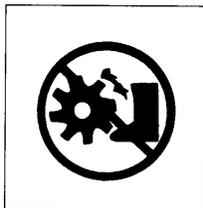
It is important that you read, fully understand and observe the following safety precautions and warnings. Careless or improper use of the unit may cause serious or fatal injury.

**MAX
3600rpm
at cutt-
ing shaft.**

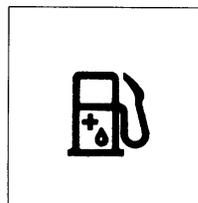
Shows maximum shaft speed. Do not use cutting attachment whose max rpm is below the shaft rpm.

**MAX
blade
diameter
230mm**

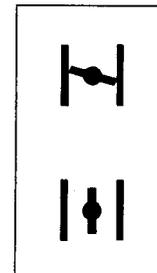
Shows maximum blade diameter. Do not use cutting attachment whose max diameter is over 230mm.



Be careful of your step.



Always use fuel and oil mixture.

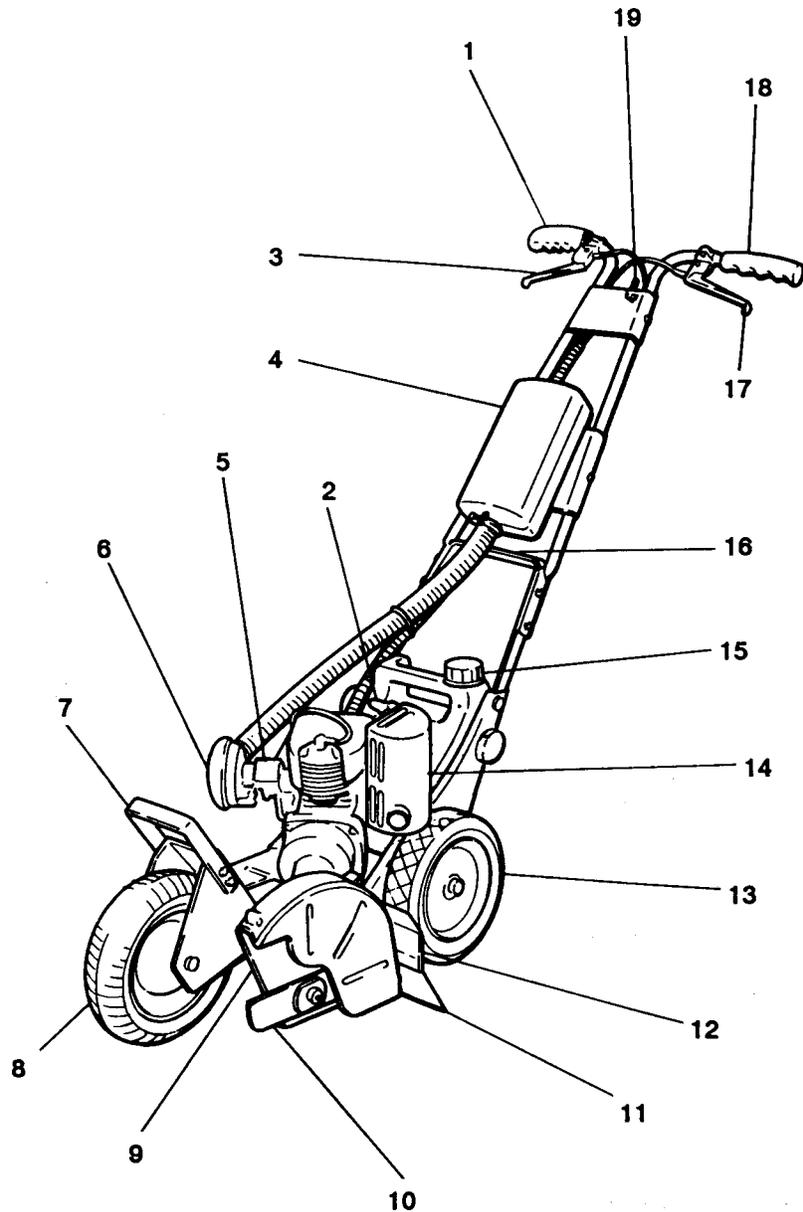


Explains choke position. Upper sign indicates choke closed and the lower fully open.

I. Major Parts

Since this manual covers several models there may be some difference between pictures and your unit. Use the instructions that apply to your unit.

- (1) Right handle
- (2) Starter handle
- (3) Throttle lever
- (4) Sub air cleaner
- (5) Carburetor
- (6) Air cleaner
- (7) Carrying handle
- (8) Front wheel
- (9) Blade guard
- (10) Blade
- (11) Mud Flap
- (12) Deflector
- (13) Rear wheel
- (14) Muffler
- (15) Fuel tank
- (16) Handle A
- (17) Adjust lever
- (18) Left handle
- (19) Stop Switch



II. SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

1. BEFORE OPERATION

- a. Dress properly, do not wear loose clothing that could become caught in moving parts of unit. Always wear safety footwear and pants that cover your legs.
- b. Protect your head (eyes and ears), hands and feet with safety hat, goggles, ear covers and gloves.
- c. Do not use the unit on graveled surfaces.
- d. **IMPORTANT: A DUST FILTER MASK SHOULD BE WORN WHILE CUTTING ON A DUSTY SURFACES.**
- e. Inspect entire unit for loose, missing or damaged parts.
- f. The operator must know and obey local regulations of the operating area.
- g. Never direct discharge of material toward bystanders or allow anyone near area of operation. Use care in directing discharge to avoid glass enclosures, automobiles, etc.
- h. Stay alert for uneven sidewalks, holes in terrain or other unstable conditions when using unit. Always push machine slowly over rough ground.
- i. Objects struck by the cutting blade can cause injury. The lawn should always be carefully examined and clear of all objects prior to edging or trimming. If the blade strikes a foreign object, follow these steps:
 1. Stop engine by turning off stop switch.
 2. Check if blade is completely stopped.
 3. Inspect for damage.
 4. Repair any damage before restarting and operating the unit.
- j. Take all possible precautions when leaving the unit unattended, such as stopping engine.
- k. Never operate unit without guards, plates or other protective device in place.
- l. Use only accessories and attachments supplied or specifically recommended by TANAKA.
- m. Do not operate unit with a damaged or excessively worn cutting blade.
- n. If unit vibrates abnormally, immediately stop engine and check for cause. Vibration is generally a warning of trouble.
- o. **WARNING** : OPERATE THE UNIT FROM POSITION WHERE GUARDS BLOCK THE LINE OF SIGHT TO THE CUTTING BLADE.

p. Use edger properly. Use only for edging the type of grass and other growth for which the machine is designed. Do not abuse engine.

WARNING: Keep hands and feet away from cutting blade while starting engine and during operation.

2. FUEL

- a. Fuel for this engine requires a mix of regular gasoline and Tanaka brand 2-cycle oil. Never operate the engine with unmixed or straight gasoline.
- b. **CAUTION** : FAILURE TO USE A GASOLINE: OIL FUEL MIXTURE WILL RESULT IN SEVERE DAMAGE TO THE ENGINE. DO NOT USE GASOLINE CONTAINING ALCOHOL OR GASOHOL.
- c. Do not smoke or allow a flame to come close while mixing fuel, adding fuel or maintaining the unit.
- d. Do not add fuel while engine is running.
- e. After filling fuel replace cap tightly.
- f. Take care not to spill fuel when filling. If so, wipe it up immediately.

3. DURING OPERATION

- a. The unit should only be operated in a well ventilated area.
- b. Keep work area clear of all persons, particularly small children and pets.
- c. While cutting, hold unit firmly with both hands and stand with your feet and body well balanced.
- d. Do not carry or attempt to make any adjustments while engine is running. (Except where specifically recommended in these instructions.)
- e. Do not operate the unit at full throttle unless it is cutting.

4. AFTER OPERATION

- a. Stop engine and drain fuel before inspecting or maintaining unit.
- b. Clean unit thoroughly, removing all dust that may have collected.
- c. Store unit in a cool and dry place.
- d. **CAUTION** : CUTTING BLADE CONTINUES TO TURN FOR A SHORT TIME AFTER THE ENGINE HAS BEEN STOPPED. MAKE SURE THAT THE BLADE IS DISENGAGED AND HAS STOPPED COMPLETELY BEFORE ADJUSTING OR MAINTAINING THE UNIT.

III. ASSEMBLING PROCEDURES

1. HANDLE ASSEMBLY

- a. Install the right handle onto the brackets which are attached to the left handle using 2 pcs. 6 x 35 bolts, 2 pcs. 6mm nuts and 2 pcs. 6mm washers. (Fig. 1)
- b. Install handle A onto handle holders A and B by using 2 pcs. 8 x 20 bolts and 2 pcs. lockwashers. Bend the lock washers against the bolt head after tightening. Next secure handle A with the locking knobs, 2 pcs. 8mm washers and 2 pcs. 8mm spring washers. (Fig. 2)
- c. Install the assembled upper handle with 4 pcs. 6 x 18 bolts, 4 pcs. 6mm washers and 4 pcs. 6mm nuts. (Fig. 3)

NOTE: Handle height can be changed by loosening and tightening locking knobs.

2. WHEEL INSTALLATION

- a. To install the front wheel, first remove the front wheel shaft. Then while holding the wheel in place, re-install the front shaft using wheel spacers on both sides. Secure with 8mm nut, 8mm washer and 8mm spring washer. (Fig. 4)

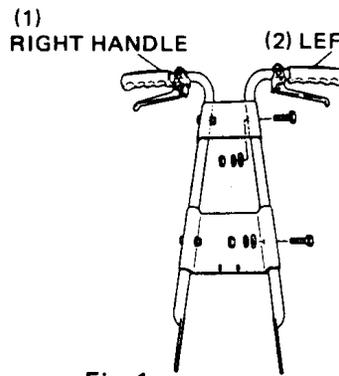


Fig. 1

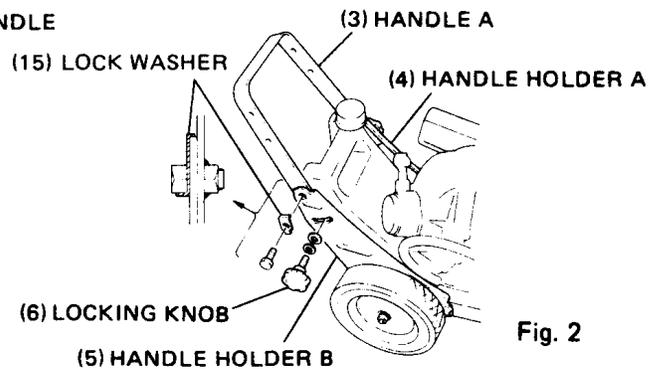


Fig. 2

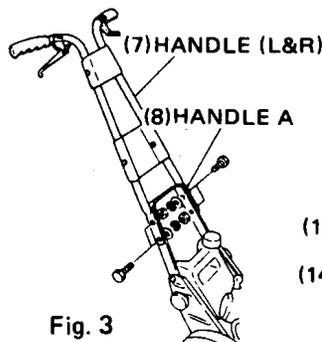


Fig. 3

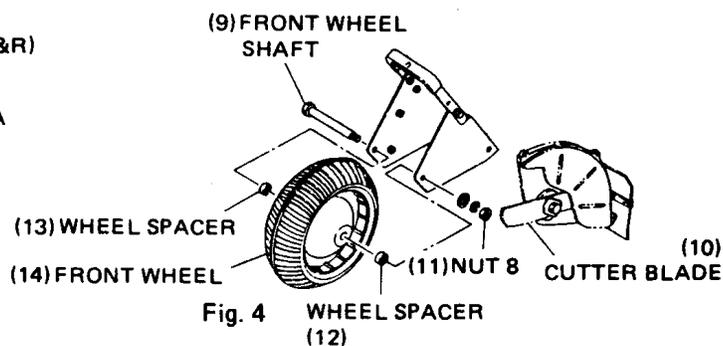


Fig. 4

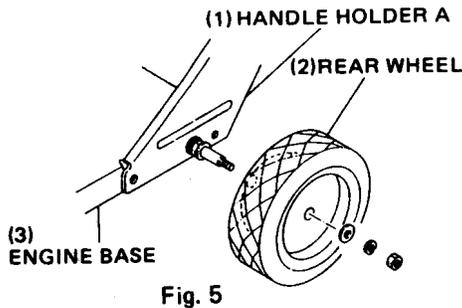


Fig. 5

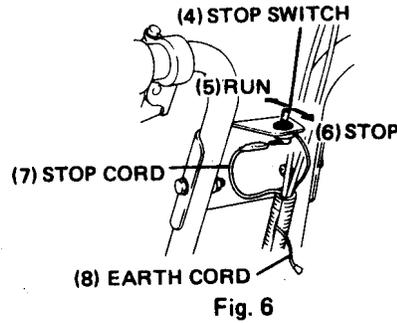


Fig. 6

b. To install rear wheels, temporarily remove the nuts, spring washers and washers from the rear axle. Install the rear wheels and secure them with the washers and nuts in the same order. (Fig. 5)

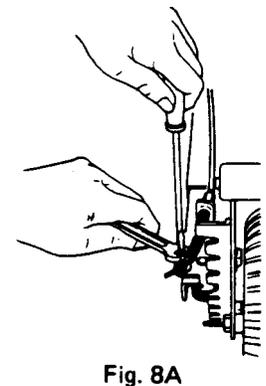
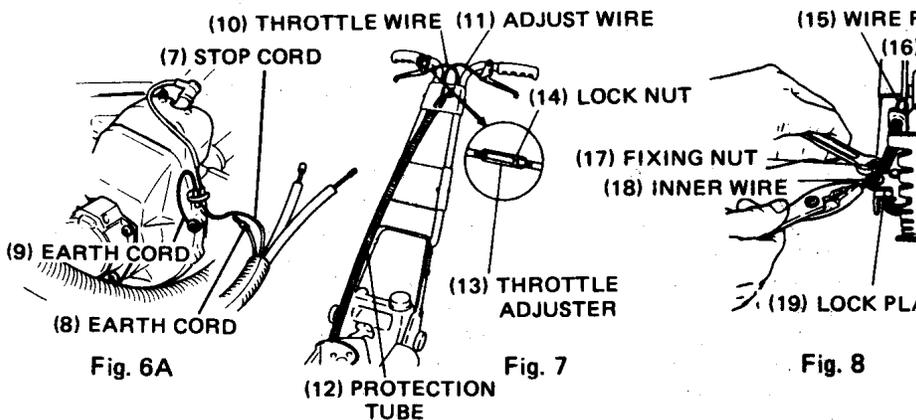
3. INSTALLATION OF WIRES

- a. Route the protection tube containing the adjust wire, throttle wire, and stop cord as shown in figure 7.
- b. Connect the stop cord to the stop switch terminal. (Fig. 6)
- c. Connect the throttle wire end to the throttle lever which is located on the right handle. After connection of throttle wire, turn throttle adjuster counterclockwise until play between the throttle lever and wire becomes minimized and then lock throttle adjuster with lock nut. (Fig. 7)
- d. Connect the adjust wire to the adjust lever which is located on the left handle. (Fig. 7)
- e. After installation of the adjust wire, loosen fixing nut of lock plate and pull the inner wire lightly with pliers. (Fig. 8) Then fix it by tightening the fixing nut as locking the lock plate with a minus screw driver. (Fig. 8A)

NOTE: If the lock plate doesn't fully disengage from the adjust plate you must adjust the wire by turning the wire receiver counterclockwise and lock the wire receiver with lock nut. (Fig. 8)

- f. Untie the earth cord (8) on stop switch and insert it to protection tube that has a slit. (Fig. 6)
- g. Connect the end of earth cord (8) to the earth cord (9) on engine. (Fig. 6A)

NOTE: Make sure the earth cord (8) which connects to the ON/OFF switch base is connected to the cord going to the ground. If these stop and earth wires are reversed, the engine will not start. (Fig. 6A)



4. INSTALLATION OF THE AIR CLEANER

- a. Mount the air cleaner body to the cleaner bracket using 4 pcs. 5 x 14 bolts, 4 pcs. 5mm washers and 4 pcs. 5mm spring washers. (Fig. 9)
- b. Attach the cleaner core to the hose securing it with the wire band. Insert the cleaner sponge onto the core then insert the core into the cleaner body.

NOTE: Make sure both rims on the end of the core are inside of the cleaner body. (Fig. 10 & 11)

WARNING: When attaching the cleaner core to the hose, be careful not to move the orifice pipe. The wire bond must be secured to the orifice and the cleaner core or the hose may become damaged when it is tightened. (Fig. 10 & 11)

- c. To install carb side air cleaner, set the provided cleaner sponge in cleaner body and install the pre-assembled cleaner cap on the cleaner body. Secure the cap with 5 x 35mm screw, the collar and 5mm nut by slightly bending the clamps over the cap. (Fig. 12)

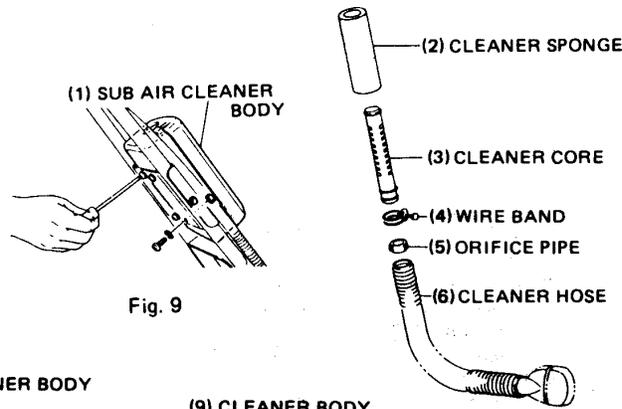


Fig. 9

Fig. 10

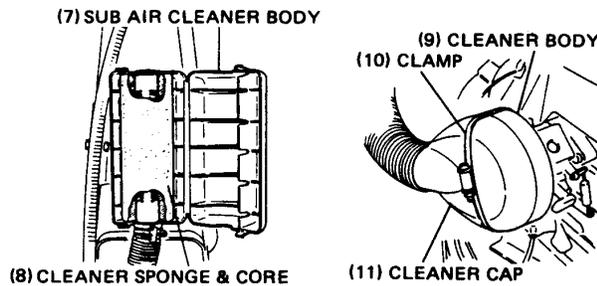


Fig. 11

Fig. 12

- d. Clamp the cleaner hose and the protection tube onto handle A using the long clamp. Hook the O-ring with the hose stay on recoil starter. Then clamp the protection tube onto the handle right above the air cleaner with the shorter clamp band. (Fig. 13, 18)

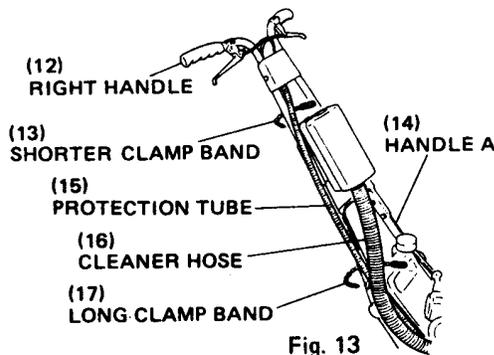


Fig. 13

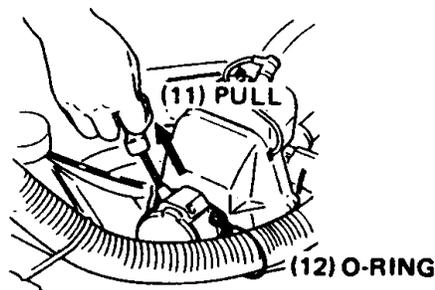


Fig. 18

5. BLADE INSTALLATION

- Take off the fixing nut, cutter holder cap and holder washer from the blade shaft.
- Install the blade on the shaft and then replace the holder washer, cutter holder cap, spring washer and fixing nut in order.
- Insert the locking bar into the hole of the cutter holder and gear case by lining up each hole. (Fig. 14)
- Tighten the fixing nut securely.

6. INSTALLATION OF GUARD ADJUSTING BOLT

- Install guard adjusting bolt with washer 8 and bent washer. (Fig. 15)



Fig. 14

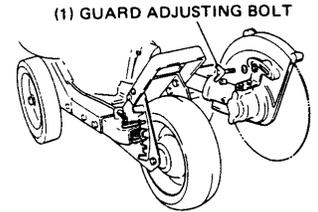


Fig. 15

IV. OPERATING PROCEDURES

1. FUEL

For proper lubrication, this engine must operate on a mixture of gasoline and TANAKA brand 2-cycle engine oil. TANAKA 2-cycle oil has been formulated to insure maximum engine performance and, increased engine life. The gasoline must be mixed according to the instructions on the oil bottle. If TANAKA oil isn't available, mix 50 parts of regular gasoline to 1 part of quality 2 cycle mix.

CAUTION: Do not use gasoline containing alcohol or gasohol as this may remit in engine failures.

2. STARTING

WARNING: Keep hands and feet away from cutting blade while starting engine and during operation.

- When starting engine, move stop switch to "START" position. If engine is cold, move choke lever to "CHOKE" position. (Fig. 16 & 17)
- With the safety lever (13) pressed (if so equipped), pull throttle trigger and push lock button(3), then slowly release the throttle trigger first, then the safety lever. This will lock the throttle in starting position. (Fig. 16B)

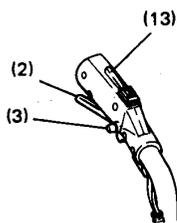


Fig. 16B

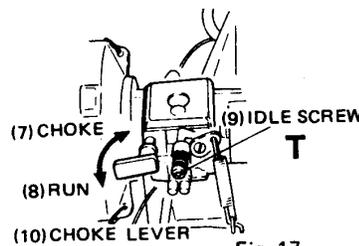


Fig. 17

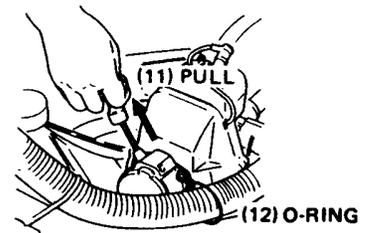


Fig. 18

- Pull the recoil starter upwards briskly several times or until engine attempts to start. Pull down choke lever to "RUN" position and continue to pull until engine starts. (Fig. 18)
- Let engine idle for about 3 minutes for warm-up.

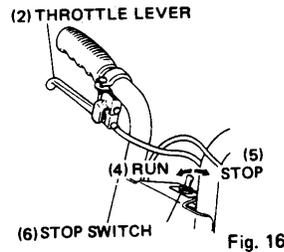
WARNING: Be sure not to touch muffler during or right after operation since it is hot and you might be burned.

3. CUTTING

- a. Always hold unit firmly with both hands and keep your body well balanced.
- b. Cutting depth is controlled by adjust lever on left handle, by changing lock plate position, nine steps of cutting depth can be obtained. (Fig. 19)

4. STOPPING

- a. To stop engine, release throttle lever and allow engine to return to idle, then move stop switch to the "STOP" position. (Fig. 16)



V. MAINTENANCE AND ADJUSTMENT

WARNING: Make sure that engine and blade are completely stopped before adjusting or maintaining the unit.

1. BLADE REPLACEMENT

- a. Follow the opposite procedure for installation. Section III #5.
- b. Care must be taken when handling sharpened blades.

2. AIR CLEANER

- a. Clean sub-cleaner sponge every day or every eight hours of operation. More frequent cleaning is recommended under very dusty conditions. Wash the sponge in liquid detergent and water. Squeeze it to remove dirt and press it in a dry rag until it is completely dry. Saturate the sponge in 2-cycle oil or the equivalent. Squeeze it to distribute oil completely and to remove any excess oil. Replace sponge and install cover. (Fig. 20)
- b. The main cleaner sponge (carb side) should be cleaned and apply oil in the same way as abovementioned after every 50 hours of operation. More frequent cleaning may be required if operating in extremely dusty conditions. (Fig. 20)

3. FUEL FILTER

- a. Clean as necessary. After all fuel drained from tank, gently pry out fuel filter with minus driver and wash it thoroughly in gasoline. After washing push it into the same place as before. (Fig. 21)

NOTE: If the filter is hard due to dust and dirt, replace it.

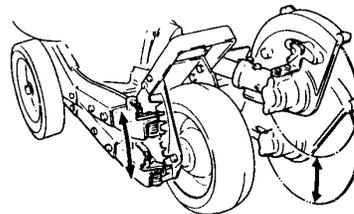


Fig. 19

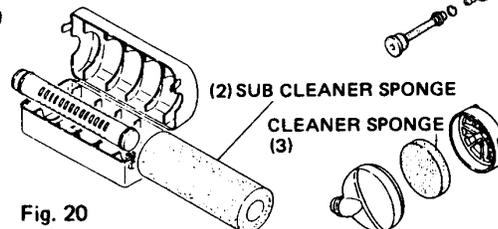


Fig. 20

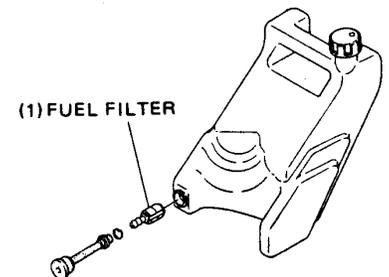


Fig. 21

4. SPARK PLUG

a. This unit uses a CHAMPION CJ6 or NGK BMR7A spark plug and gap should be .60mm(.023 in.). During normal operation, electrodes will appear brown in color. If carbon and oil appear on the electrode, plug should be cleaned with solvent or replaced. (Fig. 22)

NOTE: In some areas, local law requires using a resistor spark plug to suppress ignition signals. If this machine was originally equipped with resistor spark plug, use same type of spark plug for replacement.

5. CARBURETOR

- a. Fuel supply adjustments on the carburetor are pre-set at factory. Usually you don't have to adjust it.
- b. If you need an idle adjustment M, turn idle screw clockwise for higher RPM and for lower RPM, counterclockwise. (Fig. 17)

NOTE: Carburetor adjustment needs the skill of experienced or well trained people. It is recommended to take the unit to your nearest dealer.

6. GOVERNOR

- a. The engine speed governor is lubricated with #30 weight oil. The capacity is 0.5 fl.oz. (16 mi). The level screw (Fig. 23) should be checked after the first 20 hours of use and each additional 100 hours there after.

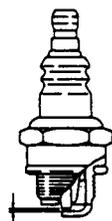
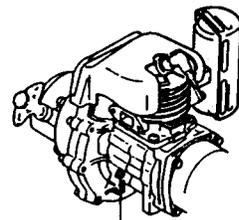


Fig. 22 0.6mm



(4) LEVEL CHECK SCREW
Fig. 23

GOVERNOR ADJUSTMENT

- a. First with the engine off, loosen screw A (1).

Pull up governor outer lever (2) and push down governor spring lever (3), at the same time retighten the screw A (Fig. 23B)

NOTE: After above procedure, make sure the throttle (4) on the carburetor gets either of the idle position or the full open position.

- b. To adjust governor, loosen screws (6) which holds control lever assembly (5) to crankcase and move the assembly left or right to obtain the maximum speed of 6500 rpm (Moving control lever assembly to left gives higher rpm and moving to right, lower rpm)(Fig. 23C)

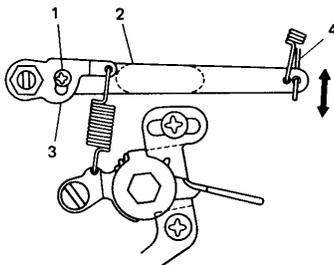


Fig. 23B

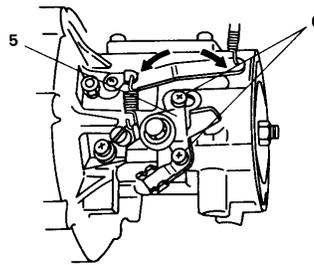


Fig. 23C

NOTE: Always adjust throttle wire end play before governor adjustment.

CAUTION: Do not adjust to run more than 6500 rpm.

c. Governor hunting (Varying rpm)

- Hunting occurs with insufficient warm up of engine.
- When the governor spring, governor rod or governor rod spring moves improperly, hunting may occur. Check and clean.
- If governor rod spring becomes stretched, hunting may occur. Handle with care or replace.
- If the gasoline and oil mix ratio is not correct, hunting may occur. Ratio should be from 25:1 to 50:1.
- When fuel tank or petcock is clogged with dirt or old fuel, hunting may occur. Check and clean.
- When there is insufficient oil in the governor, the weights will not operate properly, resulting in hunting. Check and refill with gear oil.
- If the high speed screw on the carburetor is improperly adjusted, hunting may occur. Adjust properly.

7. GEAR CASE, WIRES AND MUFFLER

a. The gear case is lubricated with multi-purpose grease. The level should be checked after every 50 hrs. of use by removing check screw. (Fig. 24)

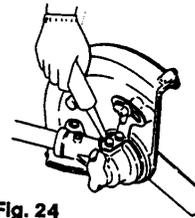


Fig. 24

b. Adjust wire and throttle wire should be lubricated at both ends with a penetrating type oil after every 20 hours of use.

c. Remove the muffler and clean out any excess carbon from the exhaust port or muffler inlet every 100 hours of operation. (Fig. 25)

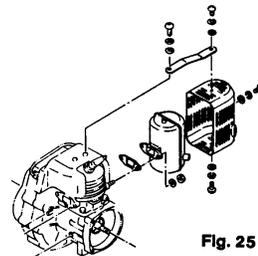


Fig. 25

8. STORAGE

- a. Completely drain all fuel from tank, start engine and let it run at idle speed until fuel has been cleared from fuel lines and carburetor.
- b. Remove spark plug and put a slight amount of 2 cycle oil into the cylinder. Gently pull recoil starter to evenly distribute oil, then re-install spark plug.
- b. Store unit in a cool and dry place.

VI. TROUBLESHOOTING

- a. Check for the following if the engine will not start:
 - Stop switch is on.
 - Fuel in fuel tank.
 - Contaminated fuel.
 - Properly connected fuel line.
 - Kinked or damaged fuel line.
 - Throttle lever is set in "START" position with lock button for cold engine.
 - Fouled or damaged spark plug.
 - Loose or corroded spark plug or spark plug cap.
 - Correct spark plug gap.
 - Cold engine : choke lever is in "CHOKE" position.
 - Warm engine : choke lever is in "RUN" position.

NOTE: If engine has been flooded with too much fuel, move choke lever to "RUN" position, release throttle lever to "SLOW" position and continue to pull until engine has started.

- b. Check for the following if unit loses power:
 - Fouled or damaged spark plug.
 - Contaminated fuel.
 - Kinked or damaged fuel line.
- c. Check for the following if unit vibrates excessively:
 - Loose connection of handles, handle holders and so on.
 - Bent or damaged blade.
 - Weeds on blade shaft.
 - Fouled or damaged spark plug.

VII. Optional

Blade	Name	Teeth	Material	Thickness	Diameter	Suitable for
	B8/9/2.4	8	SK-5	2.4	230/9	TLE-550

VIII. Specifications

Model	TLE-550
Engine Size	51 (3.1 cu. In)
Cylinder	Aluminum alloy with steel sleeve
Ignition System	Transistorized electorized electronic ignition
Spark Plug	CHAMPION CJ6 or NGK BMR7A
Carburetion	Diaphragm
Clutch System	3 shoe-centrifugal
Drive System	Straight shaft gear drive
Reduction ratio	2 : 1
Fuel Tank Capacity	2.35 (79.39 fl.oz.)
Dry Weight (kg)	23.0 (50.6 lbs)
Front Wheel (mm)	1-20.32 X 6.35 (8 x 2.5 in.)
Rear Wheel (mm)	2-20.32 X 4.44 (8 x 1.75 in.)
Blade size (mm)	200 (7.9 in.)
Cutting depth	9 settings up to 80mm (3.1 in.) deep : Manually controlled with lever at operator's station.
Arbor diameter	12.70 (0.5 in.)
Air cleaner	Dual oiled foam type
Blade Guard	Semi-enclosed, multi-positioned safety guard with debris deflector.
Sound pressure level (dB (A))	93.2
Sound power level (dB (A))	100.6
Vibration level (m/s ²)	8.7

NOTE : Equivalent noise level/vibration level are calculated as the time-weighted energy total for noise/vibration levels under various working conditions with the following time distribution: ½ idle, ½ full speed.

* All data subject to change without notice.

Declaration of conformity

We, Tanaka Kogyo Co.,Ltd.,3-4-29 Tsudanuma,Narashino,Chiba,Japan

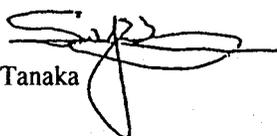
Declare under our sole responsibility that the product, lawn edger model TLE-550
to which this declaration relates is in conformity with the essential safety requirements of directives.

89/392/EEC, 91/368/EEC, 93/44/EEC, 93/68/EEC, EMC89/336/EEC

The following standards have been taken into consideration. ISO 3864, (EN-292-2)

Manufactured at: Chiba, Japan Serial No. up from U001001

Signature:

Seiji Tanaka 

Position: Vice president