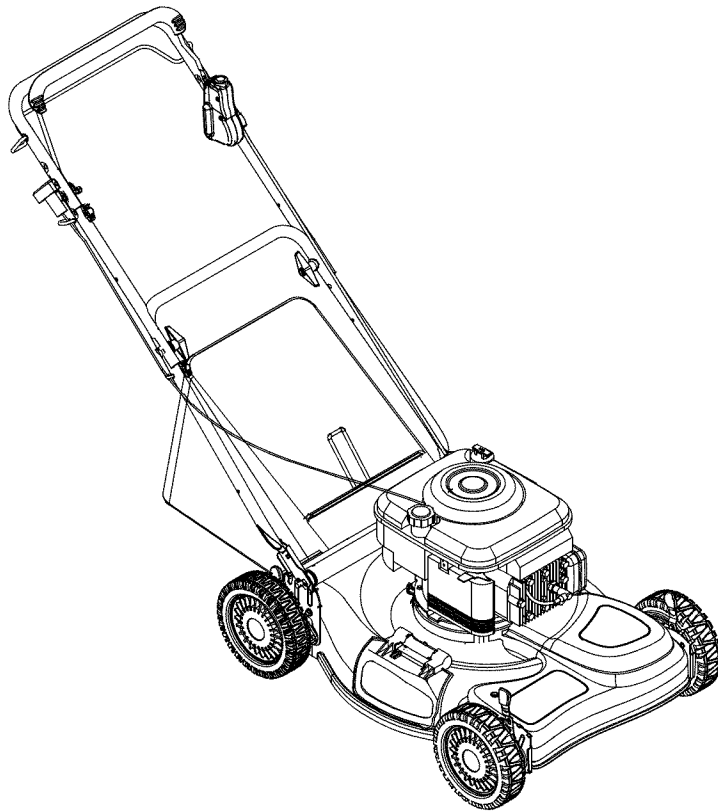




Operator's Manual



21"
Self Starter
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

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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. A sample model plate is also given below. You can locate the model plate by standing at the operating position and looking down at the rear of the deck. This information will be necessary to use the manufacturer's web site and/or help from the Customer Support Department or an authorized service dealer.



Copy the model number here: _____

Copy the serial number here: _____

CUSTOMER SUPPORT

Please do NOT return the unit to the retailer from where it was purchased, without first contacting Customer Support.

If you have difficulty assembling this product or have any questions regarding the controls, operation or maintenance of this unit, you can seek help from the experts. Choose from the options below:

	<p>Visit yardman.com for many useful suggestions. Click on Customer Support button and you will get the four options reproduced here. Click on the appropriate button and help is immediately available.</p> <div style="text-align: center; margin: 20px 0;"> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%; text-align: center;"> <p><i>The answer you are looking for could be just a mouse click away!</i></p> </div> <div style="width: 45%; text-align: center;"> <p><i>The answer you are looking for could be just a mouse click away!</i></p> </div> </div>
	<p>If you prefer to reach a Customer Support Representative, please call 1-800-800-7310.</p>
	<p>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.</p>

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:

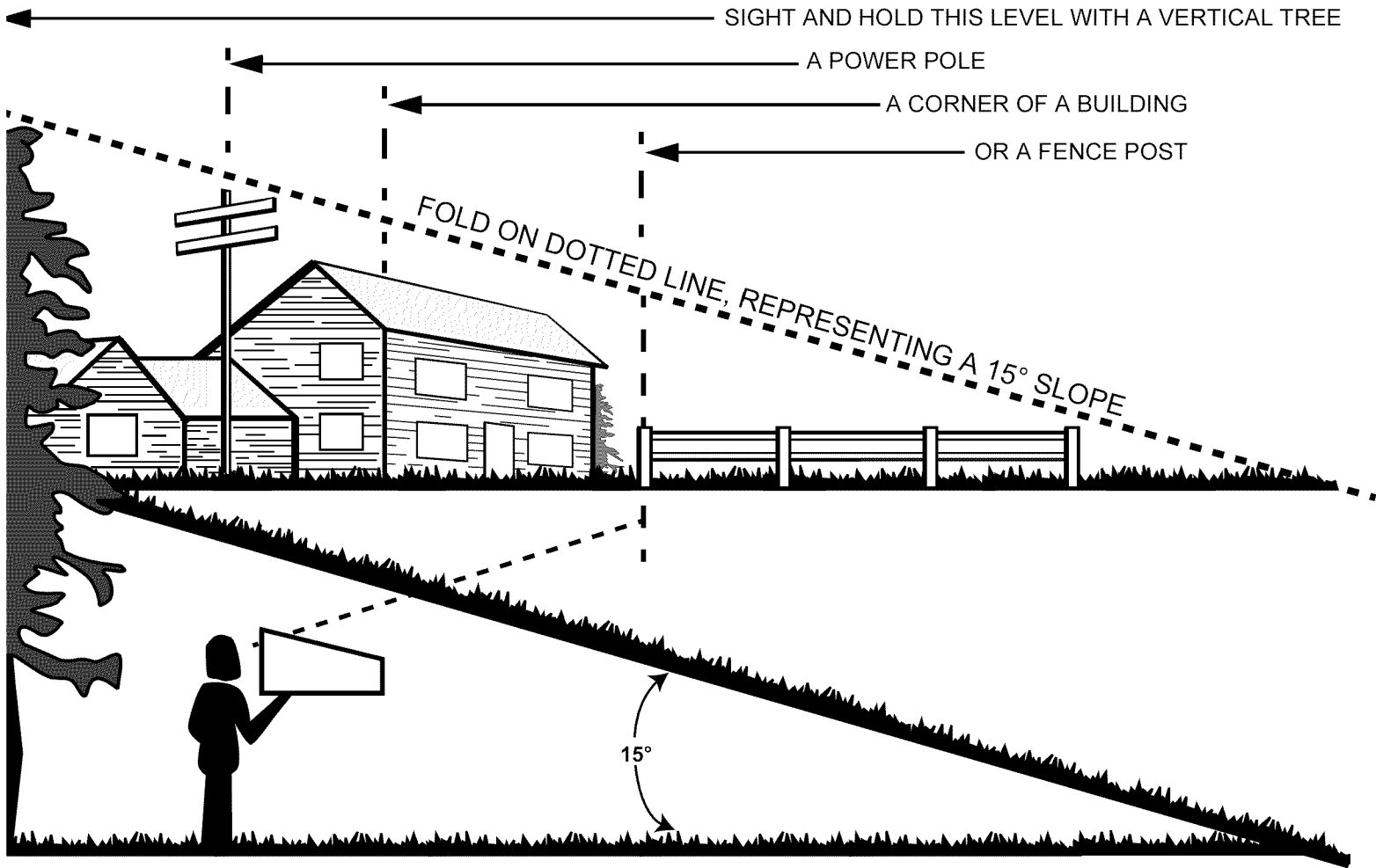
1. Never run an engine indoors or in a poorly ventilated area. Engine exhaust contains carbon monoxide, an odorless and deadly gas.
2. Before cleaning, repairing, or inspecting, make certain the blade and all moving parts have stopped. Disconnect the spark plug wire and ground against the engine to prevent 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 de-energize the starter. See section "To De-energize Self Starter". 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.
13. ALWAYS de-energize self starter prior to performing any maintenance or service to the engine and or mower. Follow instructions both in the manual and on the engine and or machine to de-energize starter.

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



WARNING

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. See Figure 1 .

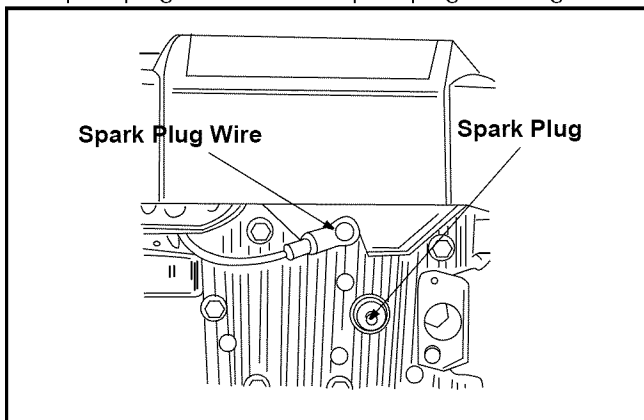


Figure 1

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 .

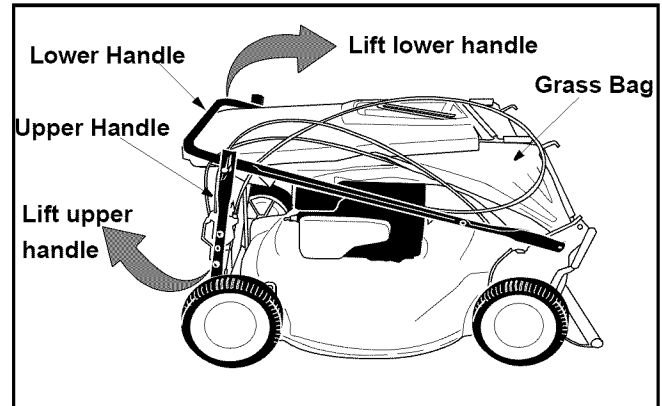


Figure 2

- 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 .

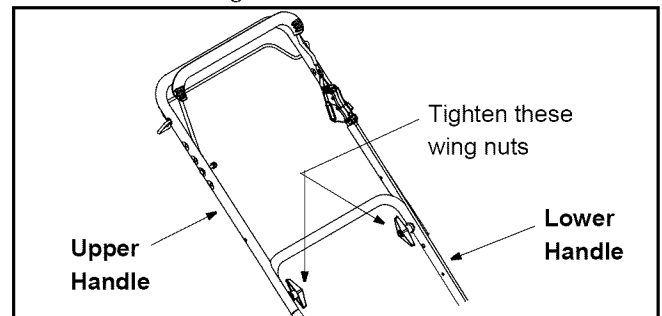


Figure 3

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

- Remove the hairpin clips from the outer hole in the weld pins on the handle mounting brackets. Using a pair of pliers, squeeze one leg of the lower handle against the handle mounting bracket. Insert the hairpin clip into the inner hole on the weld pin. Repeat on the other side. See Figure 4 .

- After moving the hairpin clip, insert the carriage bolt from hardware pack in the upper hole on the handle mounting bracket and secure with plastic wing nut from the hardware pack. Repeat on other side.

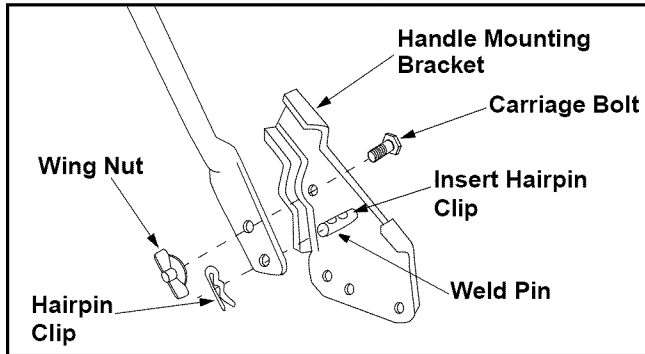


Figure 4

- Fasten the cable to the lower handle with the two cable ties found on the lower handle. Pull the cable ties tight and trim off the excess. See Figure 5.

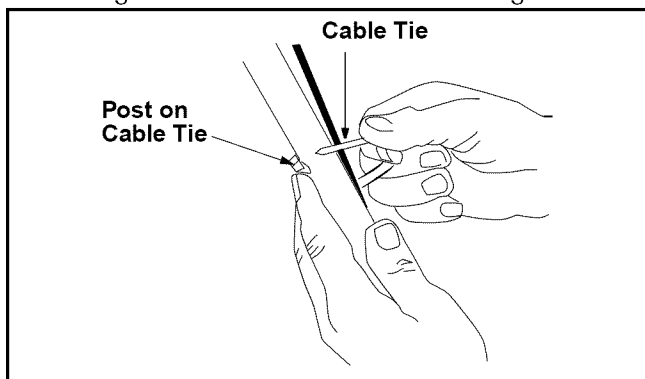


Figure 5

Attaching Starter Rope

- The rope guide is attached to the right side of upper handle. Loosen the wing nut which secures the rope guide. See Figure 6.

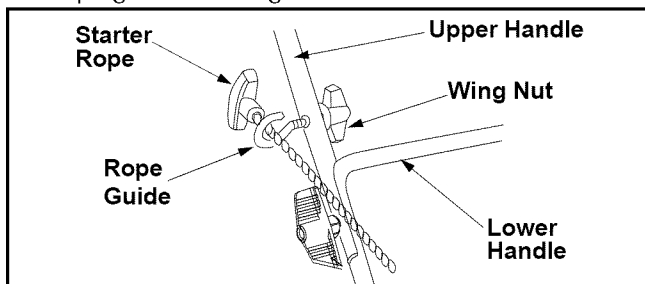


Figure 6

- With the spark plug wire disconnected and grounded, hold the blade control bar against the upper handle, and pull the starter rope out of the engine. Release the blade control bar. Slip the starter rope into the rope guide. Tighten the wing nut.

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

- Frame Assembly
- Bag

Assembling soft grass bag

- 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.

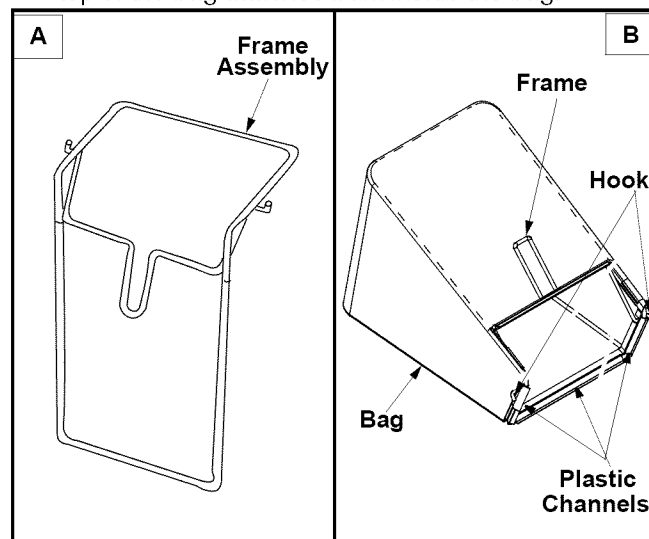


Figure 7

Attaching Grass Catcher

- Lift the rear discharge door and place the grass catcher on the pivot rod. Let go of discharge door so that it rests on the grass catcher. See Figure 8 .

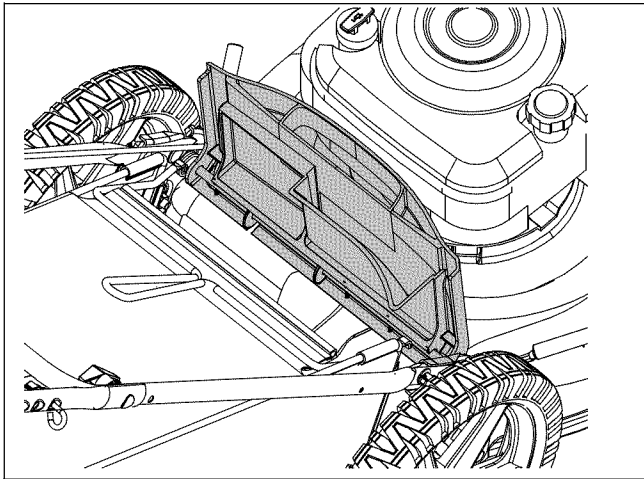


Figure 8

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



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.

Removing Grass Catcher

- Lift the rear discharge door on the mower, and lift the grass catcher up.
- Release the rear discharge door.

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 9 .
- Do not remove the side mulching plug at any time, even when you are not mulching.

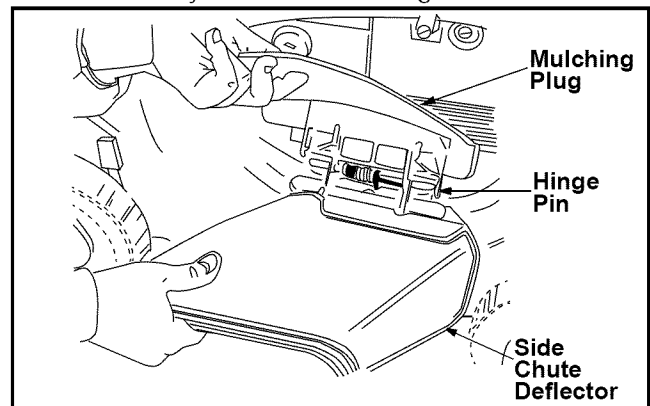


Figure 9



WARNING: Never operate the mower without the mulching cover, the grass catcher bag, or the discharge chute properly installed.

SECTION 4: KNOW YOUR LAWN MOWER

Read this owner's manual and safety rules before operating your lawn mower. Compare the illustrations in Figure 10 with your lawn mower to familiarize yourself with the location of various controls and adjustments.

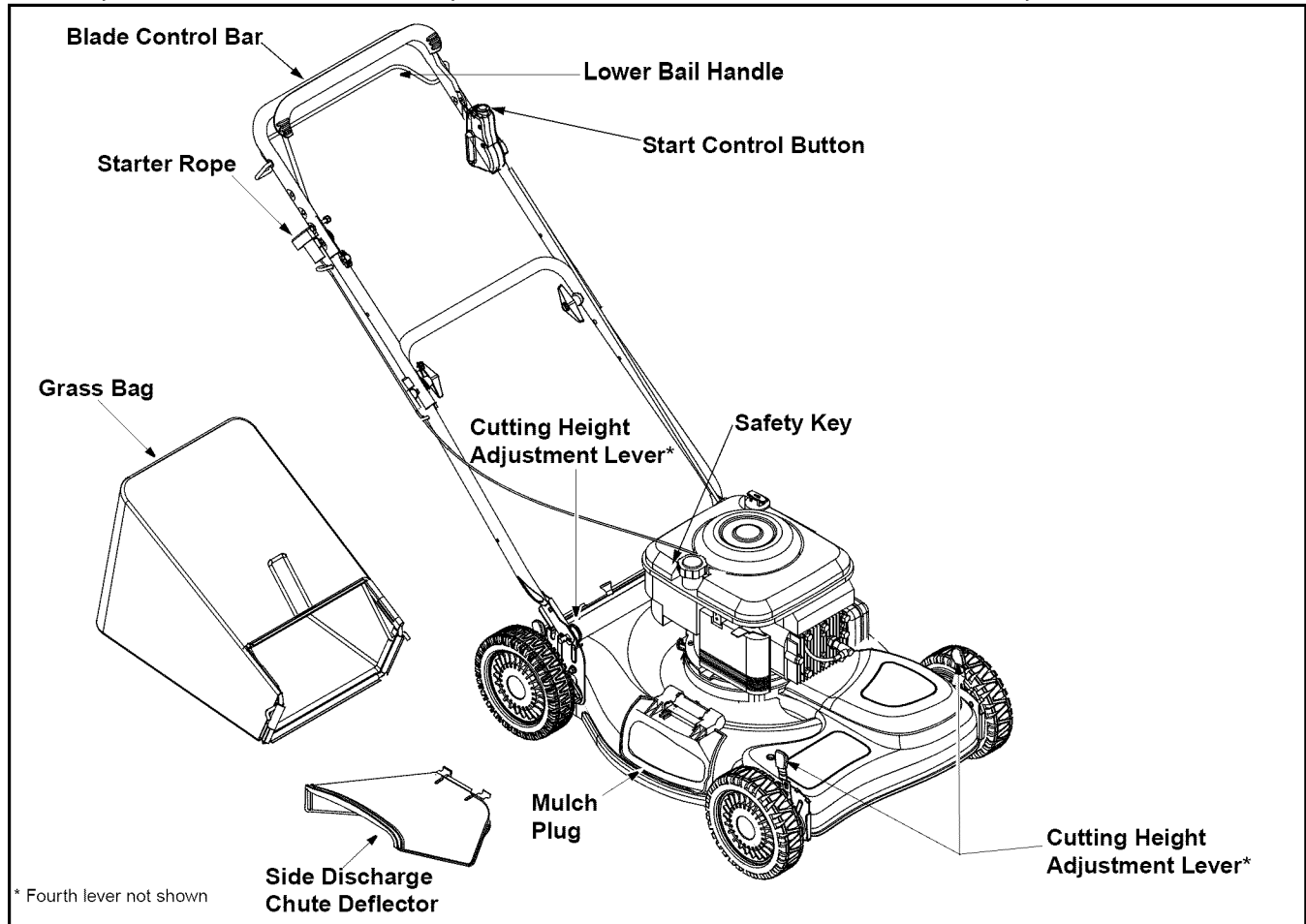


Figure 10

Recoil Starter

The recoil starter is attached to the handle. Stand behind the unit and pull the starter rope to start the unit. See Figure 10.

Blade Control Bar

The blade control bar is located on the upper handle of the mower. The blade control bar must be depressed in order to operate the unit. Release the blade control bar to stop the engine and the blade. See Figure 10.



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

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.

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. See Figure 10.

Throttle Control

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

Safety Key

The safety key is located on the engine. See Figure 10. The safety key is a safety device used to activate and deactivate the self starter system. The self starter system will not work without the key in its proper position. See engine manual for further information pertaining to the safety key. See Figure 10.

NOTE: The safety key must be in the run position to start the mower for both systems, either the self starter or recoil starter.

Start Control Button

The start control button is located on the upper left side of the handle. See Figure 10. The start control button must be depressed fully while pulling the blade control bar toward the upper handle for the engine to start.

The starter control button will automatically return to the off/up position once the blade control bar is released. See Figure 10.

The starter button must be depressed to start the engine with either the self starter or recoil starting system.

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.

First Time Starting Engine

NOTE: Use recoil starter rope to start engine for the very first time. The mower is shipped with the safety key in the locked position and the self starter in the de-energized mode, follow instructions as follows.

1. Place lawn mower on a level surface outdoors.
2. Remove clear plastic packaging under fuel cap.
3. Check oil level.
4. Add fuel.
5. Open shut off valve (if equipped) 1/4 turn.
6. Push spark plug wire firmly on spark plug.
7. Turn safety key 1/4 turn clockwise to RUN position.
8. Make sure that the drive clutch control is adjusted so the drive belt is as loose as possible.
9. Push the primer three times.
10. While standing in the operating position, depress the starter control button fully with the thumb of your right hand.
11. Using your left hand, pull the blade control bar all the way toward the upper handle. See Figure 11.
12. Release the button.
13. Grasp the recoil rope starter handle with your right hand and slowly pull towards you until feel a slight resistance, then pull firmly until your arm is fully extended.

14. If engine does not start by the second pull, repeat steps 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12.

Second Time Starting Engine

NOTE: Follow these instructions if the self starter is already in the energized mode.



WARNING: NEVER assume starter is in the de-energized mode, even if the key is in the locked position and/or removed from the engine. ALWAYS de-energize starter prior to performing any maintenance or service to the engine and/or mower. Follow instructions on the engine and/or machine to de-energize.

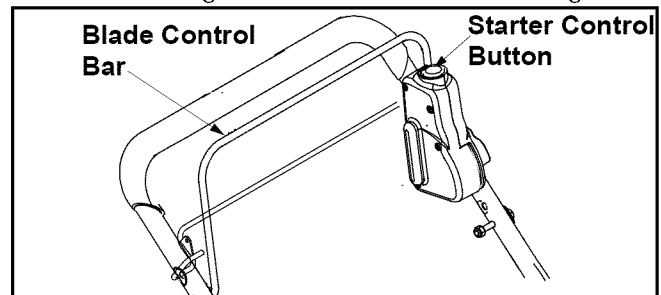


Figure 11

1. Check oil level and add fuel, if necessary.
2. Open shut off valve (if equipped) 1/4 turn.
3. Turn safety key 1/4 turn clockwise to RUN position.
4. Firmly push primer bulb 3 times (for a cold engine only!).
5. While standing at the upper handle, depress the starter control button with the thumb of your right hand.
6. Using your left hand, pull the blade control bar all the way toward the upper handle. See Figure 11. Starter will de-energize and engine will start.

NOTE: If engine does not start, release the blade control handle and follow steps 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 in the "First Time Starting Engine instructions".

NOTE: See your engine manual packed with your unit for more detailed instructions.

If any problems are encountered, refer to the Trouble Shooting Guide for helpful information.

To Stop Engine and Blade



WARNING: The blade will continue to rotate for three seconds after the blade control bar is released.

1. Release safety blade control bar (the start control button will automatically return to the off/up position), engine and blade will stop within a few seconds.

NOTE: Engine may stop with a racking sound. This sound is the self starter being reactivated/energized for the next start.

2. Turn safety key 1/4 turn counterclockwise to LOCK position. Remove key and store in a safe place.

To De-Energize Self Starter

- Remove spark plug wire from spark plug.
- Turn safety key to RUN position (1/4 turn clockwise).
- While standing in the operating position, depress the starter control button fully with the thumb of your right hand.
- Using your left hand, pull the blade control bar all the way toward the upper handle. (Release button and wait until blade and starter stop rotating.)
- Release safety blade control bar (the start control button will automatically return to the off/up position).
- Remove safety key.

NOTE: Engine will crank over upon actuating equipment starting controls, but will not spark if spark plug wire was removed from spark plug as described above. Once engine has stopped cranking, self starter is de-energized.



WARNING: Self Starting System: If these instructions are not followed, amputation or severe laceration can result.

- ALWAYS disconnect spark plug, de-energize starter, lock and remove safety key BEFORE performing ANY service to the engine or mower.
- DO NOT attempt any maintenance or repairs to the self starter.
- NEVER assume starter is de-energized, even if key is in LOCK AND REMOVE position and/or removed from engine.
- BEFORE removing grass or other debris from under mower deck; BEFORE changing oil, air filter or spark plug; BEFORE removing blade for servicing; BEFORE performing any other service to engine or mower; BEFORE transporting mower- ALWAYS DE-ENERGIZE SELF STARTER.

ALWAYS lock and remove safety key and store in a safe place until next use. The safety key is designed and intended to be removed from engine when not in

use. Removing key will prevent unsupervised or unexpected starting of mower by children or unsuspecting adults. The safety key must be in the locked position before it can be removed.

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, and 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 17 for instruction on how to adjust the cutting height and the handle 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 9 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. Do NOT allow the bag to overfill with grass clippings.
- Stop the engine completely by releasing the blade control bar.
- 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: Be sure to disconnect the spark plug wire and DE-ENERGIZE starter before performing any repairs or maintenance. DO NOT attempt any maintenance or service to the engine and/or mower equipped with the safety key in the unlocked and/or energized mode.



WARNING: NEVER assume starter is de-energized, even if the key is in the locked position and/or removed from the engine. ALWAYS de-energize self starter prior to performing any maintenance or service to the engine and/or mower. Follow instructions on the engine and/or machine to de-energize starter.

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 a garden hose to clean your unit. These may cause damage to 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 a 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)

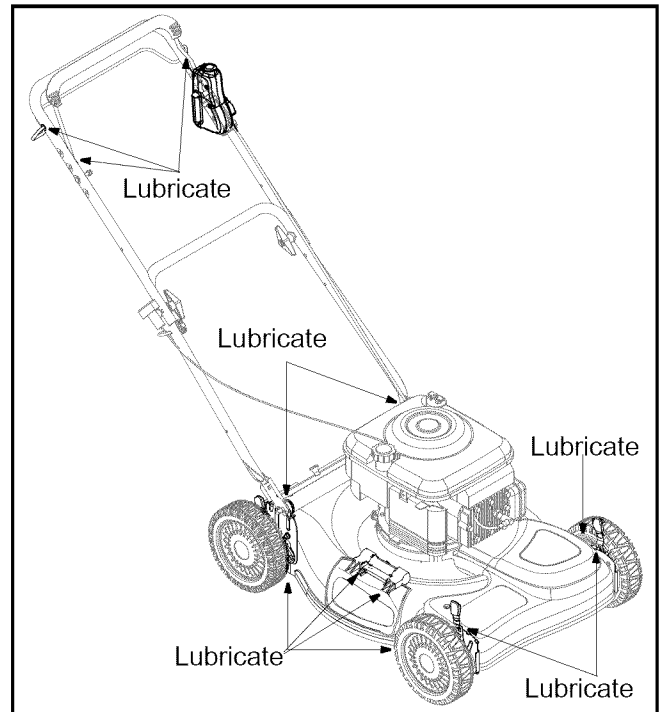


Figure 12

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

SECTION 7: SERVICING YOUR LAWN MOWER



WARNING: Be sure to disconnect the spark plug wire and DE-ENERGIZE starter before lubricating, repairing, or servicing. DO NOT attempt any maintenance or service to the engine and/or mower equipped with the safety key in the unlocked and/or energized mode.



NEVER assume starter is de-energized, even if the key is in the locked position and/or removed from the engine. ALWAYS de-energize self starter prior to performing any maintenance or service to the engine and/or mower. Follow instructions on the engine and/or machine to de-energize starter.

Blade Care

Periodically inspect the blade adapter and pulley 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 bolt and the blade bell support that hold the blade and blade adapter assembly to the engine crankshaft. See Figure 13 .

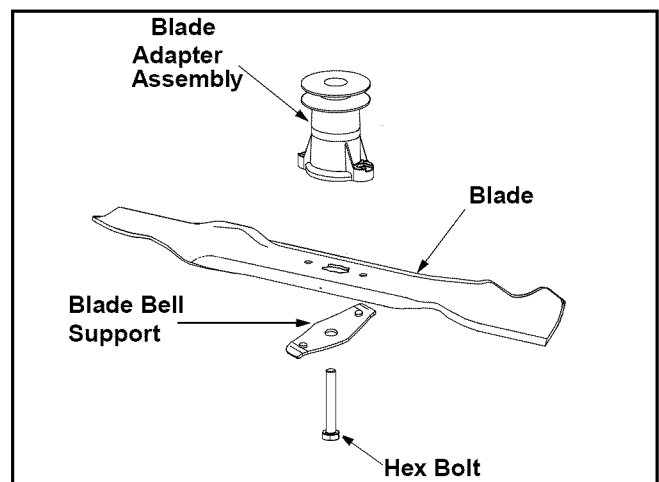


Figure 13

- Remove the blade and the adapter from the crankshaft.

To Replace Blade:

- Before reinstalling the blade and adapter assembly to the unit, lubricate the engine crankshaft and the inner surface of the blade adapter with light oil.
- 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.
- Slide the blade adapter assembly onto the engine crankshaft.
- Place the blade on the adapter. Be certain the blade is aligned and seated on the blade adapter flanges.
- Place blade bell support on blade. Make sure the notches on the blade bell support are aligned with small holes in the blade.

Replace hex bolt and tighten to torque: 450 in. lbs. min., 600 in. lbs. max.

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.

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 .

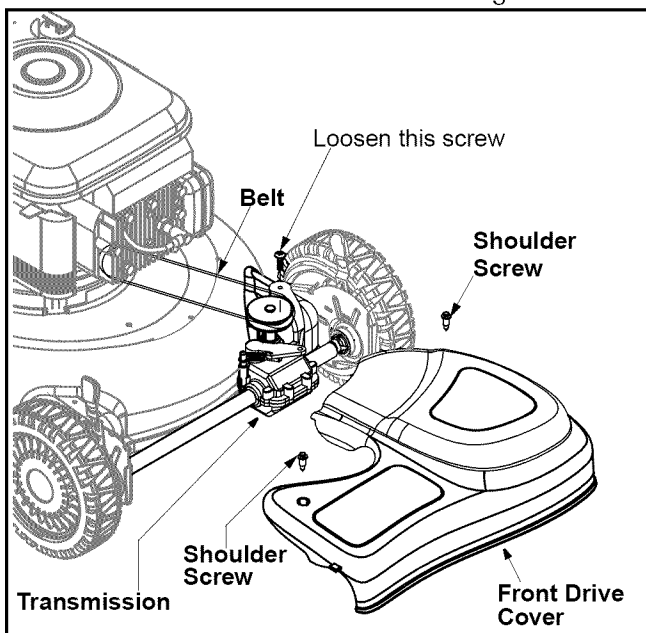


Figure 14

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

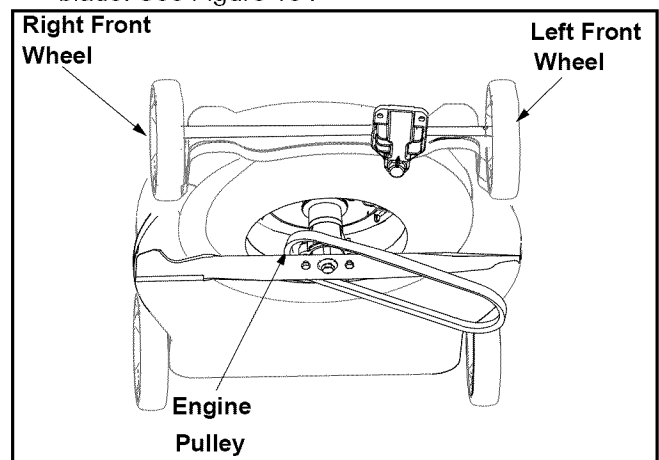


Figure 15



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.

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 .

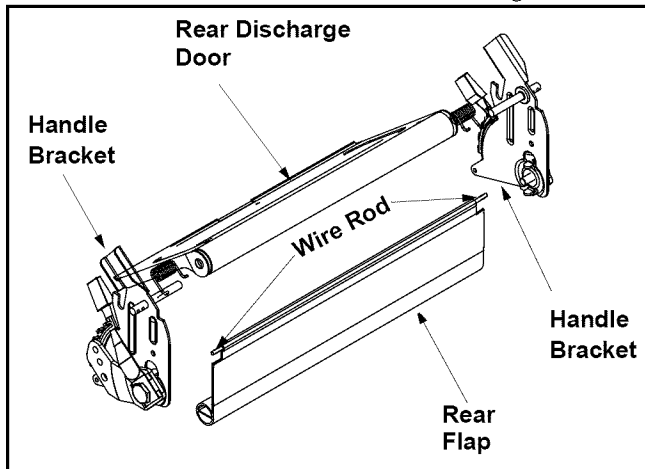


Figure 16

- Attach the new flap and new rod to deck, bending the ends of the new rod over to secure to deck.

SECTION 8: MAKING ADJUSTMENTS



WARNING: Be sure to disconnect the spark plug wire and DE-ENERGIZE starter before performing any adjustments or repairs. DO NOT attempt any maintenance or service to the engine and/or mower equipped with the safety key in the unlocked and/or energized mode.



WARNING: NEVER assume starter is de-energized, even if the key is in the locked position and/or removed from the engine. ALWAYS de-energize self starter prior to performing any maintenance or service to the engine and/or mower. Follow instructions on the engine and/or machine to de-energize starter.

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 and remove the wing nuts and carriage bolts from the upper hole on the handle

mounting bracket. Refer to Figure 4 . Press out on the legs of the lower handle and remove lower handle from the mower.

- Turn lower handle around so the notch is facing forward as shown in Figure 17 .

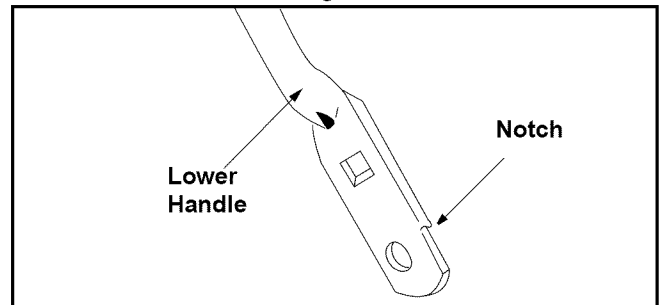


Figure 17

- 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 insert the carriage bolts in the upper hole on the handle mounting bracket and secure with plastic wing nuts.
- Attach the starter rope as instructed in "Assembling Your Lawn Mower" section.

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.

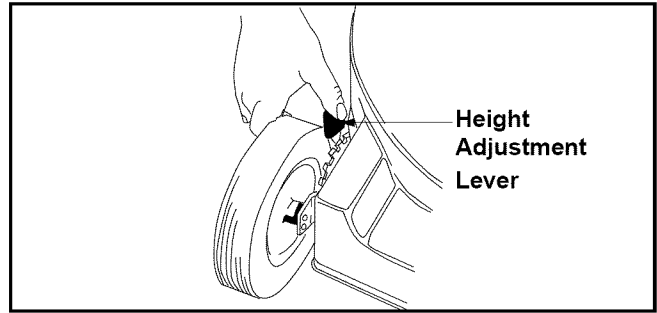


Figure 18

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**.



WARNING: Be sure to disconnect the spark plug wire and DE-ENERGIZE starter before performing any repairs or maintenance. DO NOT attempt any maintenance or service to the engine and/or mower equipped with the safety key in the unlocked and/or energized mode.



WARNING: NEVER assume starter is de-energized, even if the key is in the locked position and/or removed from the engine. ALWAYS de-energize self starter prior to performing any maintenance or service to the engine and/or mower. Follow instructions on the engine and/or machine to de-energize starter.



WARNING: Never store the machine or fuel continuator indoors where there is an open flame, spark or pilot light such as on water heater, furnace, clothes dryer or other gas appliance.

Mower

- Clean underside of the mower following instructions on page 13.

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

- Lubricate the mower as instructed on page 13.
- Inspect and replace/sharpen blade, if required. Refer to page 14.

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.

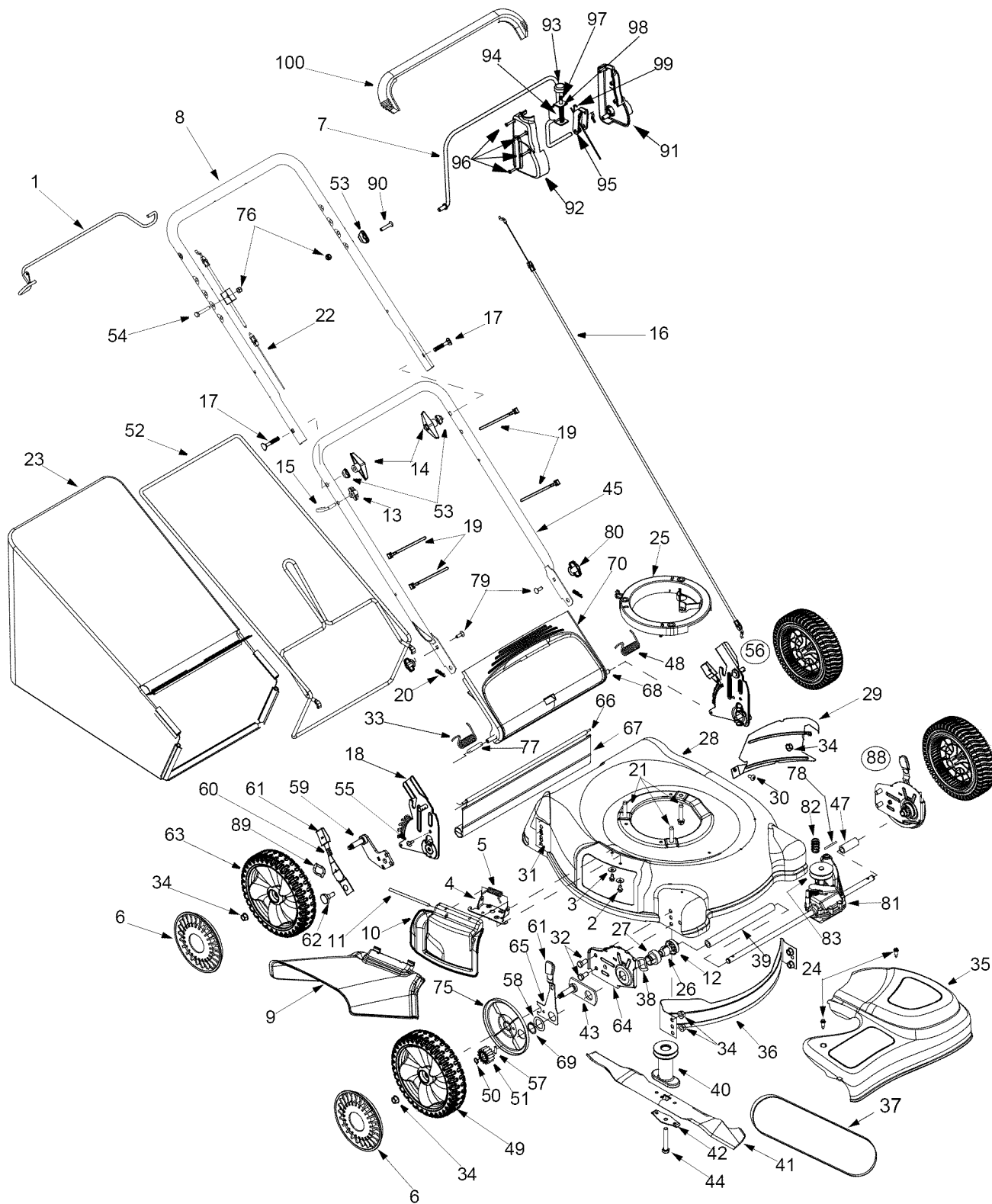
SECTION 10: TROUBLE-SHOOTING GUIDE

Problem	Possible Cause	Corrective Action
Engine fails to start	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Blade control handle disengaged 2. Spark plug wire disconnected 3. Fuel tank empty, or stale fuel 4. Blocked fuel line 5. Faulty spark plug 6. Engine flooded 7. Self starter already de-energized 8. Start control button not depressed 9. Safety key not in run position 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Engage blade control handle. 2. Connect wire to spark plug. 3. Fill up tank with fresh gasoline. 4. Clean fuel line. 5. Clean, adjust gap, or replace. 6. Wait a few minutes and start again. 7. Use recoil starter to start engine. 8. Depress starter control button. 9. Place safety key in run position.
Engine runs erratic	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Spark plug wire loose 2. Blocked fuel line or stale fuel 3. Vent in gas cap plugged 4. Water or dirt in fuel system 5. Dirty air cleaner 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Connect and tighten spark plug wire. 2. Clean fuel line, fill tank with fresh gas. 3. Clear vent. 4. Drain fuel tank. Refill with fresh fuel. 5. Clean air cleaner. Refer to engine manual.
Engine overheats	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Engine oil level low 2. Air flow restricted 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fill crankcase with proper oil. 2. Clean lawn mower engine.
Occasional skip at high speed	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Spark plug gap too close 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adjust gap to .030 inches.
Idles poorly	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Spark plug fouled, faulty, or gap too wide 2. Dirty air cleaner 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reset gap to .030 inches or replace spark plug. 2. Clean air cleaner.
Excessive vibration	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cutting blade loose or unbalanced 2. Bent cutting blade 3. Bent engine crankshaft 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tighten blade and adapter, balance blade. 2. Replace blade. 3. Contact your nearest service center.
Mower will not mulch grass	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wet grass 2. Excessively high grass 3. Dull blade 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wait until grass is dry to cut. 2. Mow once at a high cutting height, then mow again at desired height. 3. Sharpen or replace blade.
Uneven cut	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wheels not in same height position 2. Dull blade 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reposition all wheels at same height. 2. Sharpen or replace blade.

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

SECTION 11: PART LIST FOR MODEL 469



IMPORTANT: For a proper working machine, use Factory Approved Parts. **V-BELTS** are specially designed to engage and disengage safely. A substitute (non OEM) V-Belt can be dangerous by not disengaging completely.

Model 469

Ref. No	Part No.	Description	Ref. No	Part No.	Description
1.	747-2136	Lower Bail Handle	47.	750-1166	Slev. Spacer 2.1" Lg.
2.	710-0599	TT Screw 1/4-20 x 0.5	48.	732-04089	Torsion Spring LH
3.	736-0270	Bell Washer.265 x 0.75	49.	734-2042	Front Wheel
4.	17032A	Deflector Chute Adapter	50.	716-0865	Snap Ring
5.	732-1014	Torsion Spring	51.	717-1762	Gear 14T RH FWD
6.	731-1426A	Hub Cap		717-1761	Gear 14T LH FWD *
7.	647-0070	Blade Control Handle	52.	747-04080	Grass Bag Frame
8.	749-1500	Upper Handle	53.	736-0451	Saddle Washer
9.	731-04177	Chute Deflector	54.	710-0606	Hex Screw 1/4-20 x 1.50
10.	687-02055	Mulch Plug Complete	55.	710-1652	TT Scr. w/Washer 1/4-20 x.625
11.	747-0710	Hinge Pin	56.	687-02068	RH Handle Bracket Assembly
12.	732-0708	Bearing Retainer		687-02069	LH Handle Bracket Assembly
13.	720-0279	Handle Knob	57.	715-0221	Dowel Pin
14.	720-0284	Handle Knob	58.	736-0474	Washer
15.	710-1205	Eye Bolt	59.	687-02071	Pivot Arm Assembly - RH
16.	746-1141	Control Cable - 58.25"		687-02070	Pivot Arm Assembly - LH*
17.	710-1174	Carriage Bolt 5/16-18 x 2.0	60.	732-04175	Rear Spring Lever
18.	787-01144	RH Handle Bracket	61.	720-0426	Spring Lever Knob
	787-01143	LH Handle Bracket*	62.	738-0507B	Shoulder Scr.500 Dia. x.434
19.	726-0240	Cable Tie	63.	734-2004A	Rear Wheel
20.	714-0104	Cotter Pin	64.	782-0512B	Height Adjuster Plate - RH
21.	710-1008	Self-Tapping Sems Screw		782-0511A	Height Adjuster Plate - LH*
22.	746-04026	Drive Cable	65.	732-0706	Front Lever - RH
23.	664-04027	Grassbag Assembly		732-0707	Front Lever - LH*
24.	710-1650	Shoulder Screw # 12 -24	66.	732-0700	Wire
25.	631-0075B	Engine Spacer	67.	731-1236	Rear Trailing Shield
26.	741-0604A	Bearing Sleeve	68.	747-04035	Pivot Rod
27.	748-0355	Bearing Support	69.	716-0102	Snap Ring
28.	787-01106	21" Deck	70.	731-04134	Rear Discharge Door
29.	782-5003	LH Rear Baffle	75.	782-7551	Wheel Dust Cap
30.	710-1017	Screw AB: 1/4-14: .625	76.	712-0324	Hex Lock Nut 1/4-20
31.	782-5004A	RH Rear Baffle	77.	750-04162	Spacer.375 x.50 x 1.02" Lg.
32.	710-0216	Hex Screw 3/8-16 x.75	78.	715-04011	Roll Pin
33.	732-04090	Torsion Spring RH	79.	710-0703	Carriage Bolt 1/4-20
34.	712-0431	Flange Lock Nut 3/8-16	80.	712-0397	Wing Nut
35.	731-04580	Transmission Cover (Yellow)	81.	618-0657	Transmission Assembly
36.	782-5002A	Front Baffle	82.	732-1043	Belt Tension Spring
37.	754-0637A	V-Belt	83.	756-04017	Input Pulley
38.	736-0447	Wave Washer	88.	682-0512A	Height Adjustment Assembly RH
39.	750-04178	Sleeve Spacer 9.04" Lg.		682-0511A	Height Adjustment Assembly LH
40.	748-04015A	Blade Adapter w/ Pulley	89.	736-0504	Wave Washer
41.	742-0741	21" Mulching Blade	90.	710-0501	Hex Hd. Cap Screw
42.	736-0524A	Blade Bell Support	91.	731-2532	Control Lever LH
43.	687-02044	Pivot Plate Assembly	92.	731-2533	Control Cover RH
44.	710-1257	Hex Screw 3/8-24 x 2.50	93.	720-0428	Button
45.	749-0928A	Lower Handle	94.	732-1171	Compression Spring

* Not shown in illustration

Model 469

Ref. No	Part No.	Description
95.	782-0156	Lever
96.	710-1256	Hi-Low Screw
97.	715-0168	Pin
98.	716-0209	Retention Ring
99.	732-1172	Torsion Spring
100.	731-2623	Deluxe Bail Cover

NOTES

MANUFACTURER'S LIMITED WARRANTY FOR:



The limited warranty set forth below is given by MTD LLC with respect to new merchandise purchased and used in the United States, its possessions and territories.

"MTD" warrants this product against defects in material and workmanship for a period of two (2) years commencing on the date of original purchase and will, at its option, repair or replace, free of charge, any part found to be defective in materials or workmanship. This limited warranty shall only apply if this product has been operated and maintained in accordance with the Operator's Manual furnished with the product, and has not been subject to misuse, abuse, commercial use, neglect, accident, improper maintenance, alteration, vandalism, theft, fire, water, or damage because of other peril or natural disaster. Damage resulting from the installation or use of any part, accessory or attachment not approved by MTD for use with the product(s) covered by this manual will void your warranty as to any resulting damage.

Normal wear parts are warranted to be free from defects in material and workmanship for a period of thirty (30) days from the date of purchase. Normal wear parts include, but not limited to items such as: batteries, belts, blades, blade adapters, grass bags, rider deck wheels, seats, snow thrower skid shoes, shave plates, auger spiral rubber and tires.

HOW TO OBTAIN SERVICE: Warranty service is available, WITH PROOF OF PURCHASE, through your local authorized service dealer. To locate the dealer in your area, check your Yellow Pages, or contact MTD LLC at P.O. Box 361131, Cleveland, Ohio 44136-0019, or call 1-800-800-7310 or log on to our Web site at www.mtdproducts.com.

This limited warranty does not provide coverage in the following cases:

- a. The engine or component parts thereof. These items may carry a separate manufacturer's warranty. Refer to applicable manufacturer's warranty for terms and conditions.
- b. Log splitter pumps, valves, and cylinders have a separate one year warranty.
- c. Routine maintenance items such as lubricants, filters, blade sharpening, tune-ups, brake adjustments, clutch adjustments, deck adjustments, and normal deterioration of the exterior finish due to use or exposure.
- d. Service completed by someone other than an authorized service dealer.

- e. MTD does not extend any warranty for products sold or exported outside of the United States, its possessions and territories, except those sold through MTD's authorized channels of export distribution.
- f. Replacement parts that are not genuine MTD parts.
- g. Transportation charges and service calls.

No implied warranty, including any implied warranty of merchantability of fitness for a particular purpose, applies after the applicable period of express written warranty above as to the parts as identified. No other express warranty, whether written or oral, except as mentioned above, given by any person or entity, including a dealer or retailer, with respect to any product, shall bind MTD. During the period of the warranty, the exclusive remedy is repair or replacement of the product as set forth above.

The provisions as set forth in this warranty provide the sole and exclusive remedy arising from the sale. MTD shall not be liable for incidental or consequential loss or damage including, without limitation, expenses incurred for substitute or replacement lawn care services or for rental expenses to temporarily replace a warranted product.

Some states do not allow the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages, or limitations on how long an implied warranty lasts, so the above exclusions or limitations may not apply to you.

In no event shall recovery of any kind be greater than the amount of the purchase price of the product sold. **Alteration of safety features of the product shall void this warranty.** You assume the risk and liability for loss, damage, or injury to you and your property and/or to others and their property arising out of the misuse or inability to use the product.

This limited warranty shall not extend to anyone other than the original purchaser or to the person for whom it was purchased as a gift.

HOW STATE LAW RELATES TO THIS WARRANTY: This limited warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you may also have other rights which vary from state to state.

IMPORTANT: Owner must present Original Proof of Purchase to obtain warranty coverage.

MTD LLC, P.O. BOX 361131 CLEVELAND, OHIO 44136-0019; Phone: 1-800-800-7310