# Owner's Manual

# 6.75 HORSEPOWER 22" REAR DISCHARGE POWER PROPELLED ROTARY LAWN MOWER

Model No. 917.377381

- Safety
- Assembly
- Operation
- Maintenance
- Español
- Repair Parts



# **CAUTION:**

Read and follow all Safety Rules and Instructions before operating this equipment

Sears, Roebuck and Co., Hoffman Estates, IL 60179 Visit our Craftsman website: www.sears.com/craftsman

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# WARRANTY

#### LIMITED TWO YEAR WARRANTY ON CRAFTSMAN POWER MOWER

For two years from date of purchase, when this Craftsman Lawn Mower is maintained, lubricated, and tuned up according to the operating and maintenance instructions in the owner's manual, Sears will repair free of charge any defect in material or workmanship.

If this Craftsman Lawn Mower is used for commercial or rental purposes, this warranty applies for only 90 days from the date of purchase.

This Warranty does not cover:

- Expendable items which become worn during normal use, such as rotary mower blades, blade adapters, belts, air cleaners and spark plug.
- Repairs necessary because of operator abuse or negligence, including bent crankshafts and the failure to maintain the equipment according to the instructions contained in the owner's manual.

Warranty service is available by returning the Craftsman power mower to the nearest Sears Service Center/Department in the United States. This warranty applies only while this product is in use in the United States.

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

Sears, Roebuck and Co., D/817 WA, Hoffman Estates, Illinois 60179

# SAFETY RULES

**IMPORTANT:** This cutting 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.

#### **I.GENERAL OPERATION**

- Read, understand, and follow all instructions on the machine and in the manual(s) before starting. Be thoroughly familiar with the controls and the proper use of the machine before starting.
- Do not put hands or feet near or under rotating parts. Keep clear of the discharge opening at all times.
- Only allow responsible individuals, who are familiar with the instructions, to operate the machine.
- Clear the area of objects such as rocks, toys, wire, bones, sticks, etc., which could be picked up and thrown by the blade.

- Be sure the area is clear of other people before mowing. Stop machine if anyone enters the area.
- Do not operate the mower when barefoot or wearing open sandals. Always wear substantial foot wear.
- Do not pull mower backwards unless absolutely necessary. Always look down and behind before and while moving backwards.
- Do not operate the mower without proper guards, plates, grass catcher or other safety protective devices in place.
- See manufacturer's instructions for proper operation and installation of accessories. Only use accessories approved by the manufacturer.

- Stop the blade(s) when crossing gravel drives, walks, or roads.
- Stop the engine (motor) whenever you leave the equipment, before cleaning the mower or unclogging the chute.
- Shut the engine (motor) off and wait until the blade comes to complete stop before removing grass catcher.
- Mow only in daylight or good artificial light.
- Do not operate the machine while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Never operate machine in wet grass. Always be sure of your footing: keep a firm hold on the handle and walk; never run.
- Disengage the self-propelled mechanism or drive clutch on mowers so equipped before starting the engine (motor).
- If the equipment should start to vibrate abnormally, stop the engine (motor) and check immediately for the cause. Vibration is generally a warning of trouble.
- Always wear safety goggles or safety glasses with side shields when operating mower.

#### **II. SLOPE OPERATION**

Slopes are a major factor related to slip and fall accidents which can result in severe injury. All slopes require extra caution. If you feel uneasy on a slope, do not mow it.

DO:

- Mow across the face of slopes: never up and down. Exercise extreme caution when changing direction on slopes.
- Remove obstacles such as rocks, tree limbs, etc.
- Watch for holes, ruts, or bumps. Tall grass can hide obstacles.

DO NOT:

- Do not trim near drop-offs, ditches or embankments. The operator could lose footing or balance.
- Do not trim excessively steep slopes.
- Do not mow on wet grass. Reduced footing could cause slipping.

#### **III. CHILDREN**

Tragic accidents can occur if the operator is not alert to the presence of children. Children are often attracted to the machine and the mowing activity. *Never* assume that children will remain where you last saw them.

 Keep children out of the trimming area and under the watchful care of another 3 responsible adult.

- Be alert and turn machine off if children enter the area.
- Before and while walking backwards, look behind and *down* for small children.
- Never allow children to operate the machine.
- Use extra care when approaching blind corners, shrubs, trees, or other objects that may obscure vision.

#### IV. SERVICE

- Use extra care in handling gasoline and other fuels. They are flammable and vapors are explosive.
  - Use only an approved container.
     Never remove gas cap or add fuel with the engine running. Allow engine to cool before refueling. Do not smoke.
  - Never refuel the machine indoors.
     Never store the machine or fuel container inside where there is an open flame, such as a water heater.
- Never run a machine inside a closed area.
- Never make adjustments or repairs with the engine (motor) running. Disconnect the spark plug wire, and keep the wire away from the plug to prevent accidental starting.
- Keep nuts and bolts, especially blade attachment bolts, tight and keep equipment in good condition.
- Never tamper with safety devices. Check their proper operation regularly.
- Keep machine free of grass, leaves, or other debris build-up. Clean oil or fuel spillage. Allow machine to cool before storing.
- Stop and inspect the equipment if you strike an object. Repair, if necessary, before restarting.
- Never attempt to make wheel height adjustments while the engine (motor) is running.
- Grass catcher components are subject to wear, damage, and deterioration, which could expose moving parts or allow objects to be thrown. Frequently check components and replace with manufacturer's recommended parts, when necessary.
- Mower blades are sharp and can cut. Wrap the blade(s) or wear gloves, and use extra caution when servicing them.
- Do not change the engine governor setting or overspeed the engine.

ALook for this symbol to point out important safety precautions. It means CAUTION!!! BECOME ALERT!!! YOUR SAFETY IS INVOLVED. A WARNING: In order to prevent accidental starting when setting up, transporting, adjusting or making repairs

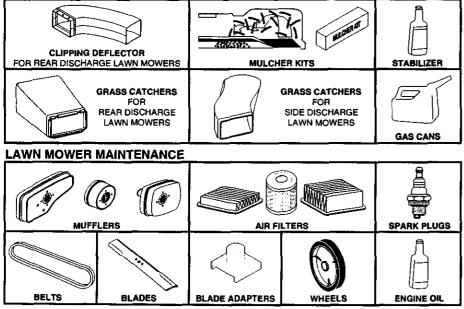
transporting, adjusting or making repairs, always disconnect spark plug wire and place wire where it cannot contact spark plug. **AWARNING:** Engine exhaust, some of its constituents, and certain vehicle components contain or emit chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm.

**AWARNING:** Battery posts, terminals and related accessories contain lead and lead compounds, chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm. **Wash hands after handling.** 

# ACCESSORIES

These accessories were available when this lawn mower was produced. **They are not shipped with your mower.** They are also available at most Sears retail outlets and service centers. Most Sears stores can also order repair parts for you, when you provide the model number of your lawn mower. Some of these accessories may not apply to your lawn mower.

#### LAWN MOWER PERFORMANCE



#### ASSEMBLY

Read these instructions and this manual in its entirety before you attempt to assemble or operate your new lawn mower.

**IMPORTANT:** This lawn mower is shipped WITHOUT OIL OR GASOLINE in the engine.

Your new lawn mower has been assembled at the factory with the exception of those parts left unassembled for shipping purposes. All parts such as nuts, washers, bolts, etc., necessary to complete the assembly have been placed in the parts bag. To ensure safe and proper operation of your lawn mower, all parts and hardware you assemble must be tightened securely. Use the correct tools as necessary to ensure proper tightness.

# TO REMOVE LAWN MOWER FROM CARTON

- 1. Remove loose parts included with mower.
- 2. Cut down two end corners of carton and lay end panel down flat.
- Remove all packing materials except padding between upper and lower handle and padding holding operator presence control bar to upper handle.
   Roll lawn mower out of carton and
- Roll lawn mower out of carton and check carton thorougly for additional loose parts.

#### HOW TO SET UP YOUR LAWN MOWER

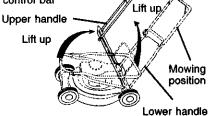
#### TO UNFOLD HANDLE

**IMPORTANT:** Unfold handle carefully so as not to pinch or damage control cables.

- Raise handles until lower handle section locks into place in mowing position.
- 2. Remove protective padding, raise upper handle section into place on lower handle and tighten both handle knobs.
- Remove handle padding holding operator presence control bar to upper handle.

Your lawn mower handle can be adjusted for your mowing comfort. Refer to "Adjust Handle" in the Service and Adjustments section of this manual.

Operator presence control bar

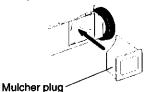


# TO INSTALL ATTACHMENTS

Your lawn mower was shipped ready to be used as a mulcher. To convert to bagging or discharging:

- Open rear door and remove mulcher plug. Store mulcher plug in a safe place.
- You can now install catcher or optional clipping deflector.
- To return to mulching operation, install mulcher plug into discharge opening of mower.

**ACAUTION:** Do not run your lawn mower without mulcher plug in place or approved clipping deflector or grass catcher in place. Never attempt to operate the lawn mower with the rear door removed or propped open.



### OPERATION

#### KNOWYOUR LAWN MOWER

READ THIS OWNER'S MANUAL AND SAFETY RULES BEFORE OPERATING YOUR LAWN MOWER. Compare the illustrations with your lawn mower to familiarize yourself with the location of various controls and adjustments. Save this manual for future reference.



#### **MEETS CPSC SAFETY REQUIREMENTS**

Sears rotary walk-behind power lawn mowers conform to the safety standards of the American National Standards Institute and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. The blade turns when the engine is running.

**Operator presence control bar** - must be held down to the handle to start the engine. Release to stop the engine. **Primer** - pumps additional fuel from the carburetor to the cylinder for use when starting a cold engine. Starter handle - used for starting the engine. Drive control lever - used to engage power-propelled forward motion of lawn mower. Mulcher plug - must be removed to

convert to bagging or discharging 6 operation.



The operation of any lawn mower can result in foreign objects thrown into the eyes, which can result in severe eye damage.

Always wear safety glasses or eye shields while operating your lawn mower or performing any adjustments or repairs. We recommend a wide vision safety mask over spectacles or standard safety glasses.

#### HOW TO USE YOUR LAWN MOWER ENGINE SPEED

The engine speed was set at the factory for optimum performance. Speed is not adjustable.

#### **ENGINE ZONE CONTROL**

**ACAUTION:** Federal regulations require an engine control to be installed on this lawn mower in order to minimize the risk of blade contact injury. Do not under any circumstances attempt to defeat the function of the operator control. The blade turns when the engine is running.

 Your lawn mower is equipped with an operator presence control bar which requires the operator to be positioned behind the lawn mower handle to start and operate the lawn mower.

#### TO ADJUST CUTTING HEIGHT

Raise wheels for low cut and lower wheels for high cut, adjust cutting height to suit your requirements. Medium position is best for most lawns.

 To change cutting height, squeeze adjuster lever toward wheel. Move wheel up or down to suit your requirements. Be sure all wheels are in the same setting.

NOTE: Adjuster is properly positioned when plate tab inserts into hole in lever. Also, 9-position adjusters (if so equipped) allow lever to be positioned between the plate tabs. Plate Tab

Lower Wheels for High Cut

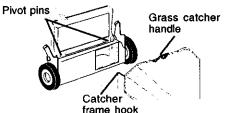


**Raise Wheels for Low Cut** 

#### TO ATTACH GRASS CATCHER

- Lift the rear door of the lawn mower and place the grass catcher frame side hooks onto the door pivot pins.
- The grass catcher is secured to the lawn mower housing when the rear door is lowered onto the grass catcher frame.

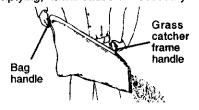
**ACAUTION:** Do not run your lawn mower without clipping deflector or approved grass catcher in place. Never attempt to operate the lawn mower with the rear door removed or propped open.



#### TO EMPTY GRASS CATCHER

- 1. Lift up on grass catcher using the frame handle.
- 2. Remove grass catcher with clippings from under lawn mower handle.
- 3. Empty clippings from bag using both frame handle and bag handle.

NOTE: Do not drag the bag when emptying; it will cause unnecessary wear.



#### **DRIVE CONTROL**

- Self-propelling is controlled by holding the operator presence control bar down to the handle and pushing the drive control lever forward until it clicks; then releasing the lever.
- Forward motion will stop when the operator presence control bar is released. To stop forward motion without stopping engine, release the operator presence control bar slightly until the drive control disengages. Hold operator presence control bar down against handle to continue mowing without self-propelling.
- To keep drive control engaged when turning corners, push down on handle and lift front wheels off ground while turning lawn mower.

Operator presence control bar



To engage Drive contro drive control disengaged BEFORE STARTING ENGINE

#### ADD OIL

Your lawnmower is shipped without oil in the engine. Engine holds 20 oz. of oil. For type and grade of oil to use, see "ENGINE" in Maintenance section of this manual.

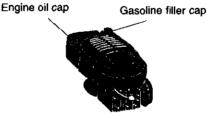
- 1. Be sure lawnmower is level and area around oil fill is clean.
- Remove engine oil cap and fill to the full line on the dipstick. Pour oil slowly. Do not over fill.

**NOTE:** Allow oil to settle down into engine for accurate reading. To read proper level, tighten engine oil cap, then remove it to read the dipstick.

- 3. Reinstall engine oil cap and tighten.
- Check oil level before each use. Add oil if needed. Fill to full line on dipstick.
- Change the oil after every 25 hours of operation or each season. You may need to change the oil more often under dusty, dirty conditions.

#### ADD GASOLINE

 Fill fuel tank. Use fresh, clean, regular unleaded gasoline with a minimum of 87 octane. Do not mix oil with gasoline. Purchase fuel in quantities that can be used within 30 days to assure fuel freshness. **AWARNING:** Experience indicates that alcohol blended fuels (called gasohol or using ethanol or methanol) can attract moisture which leads to separation and formation of acids during storage. Acidic gas can damage the fuel system of an engine while in storage. To avoid engine problems, the fuel system should be emptied before storage of 30 days or longer. Drain the gas tank, start the engine and let it run until the fuel lines and carburetor are empty. Use fresh fuel next season. See Storage Instructions for additional information. Never use engine or carburetor cleaner products in the fuel tank or permanent damage may occur. A CAUTION: Fill to bottom of gas tank filler neck. Do not overfill. Wipe off any spilled oil or fuel. Do not store, spill or use gasoline near an open flame.



#### TO START ENGINE

**NOTE:** Due to protective coatings on the engine, a small amount of smoke may be present during the initial use of the product and should be considered normal.

- To start a cold engine, push primer three (3) times before trying to start. Use a firm push. This step is not usually necessary when starting an engine which has already run for a few minutes.
- Hold operator presence control bar down to the handle and pull starter handle quickly. Do not allow starter rope to snap back.

#### **TO STOP ENGINE**

 To stop engine, release operator presence control bar.

NOTE: In cooler weather it may be necessary to repeat priming steps. In warmer weather over priming may cause flooding and engine will not start. If you do flood engine, wait a few minutes before attempting to start and do not repeat priming steps.

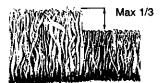
#### MOWINGTIPS

- Under certain conditions, such as very tall grass, it may be necessary to raise the height of cut to reduce pushing effort and to keep from overloading the engine and leaving clumps of grass clippings. It may also be necessary to reduce ground speed and/or run the lawn mower over the area a second time.
- For extremely heavy cutting, reduce the width of cut by overlapping previously cut path and mow slowly.
- For better grass bagging and most cutting conditions, the engine speed should be set in the fast position.
- When using a rear discharge lawn mower in moist, heavy grass, clumps of cut grass may not enter the grass catcher. Reduce ground speed (pushing speed) and/or run the lawn mower over the area a second time.
- If a trail of clippings is left on the right side of a rear discharge mower, mow in a clockwise direction with a small overlap to collect the clippings on the next pass.
- Pores in cloth grass catchers can become filled with dirt and dust with use and catchers will collect less grass. To prevent this, regularly hose catcher off with water and let dry before using.
- Keep top of engine around starter clear and clean of grass clippings and chaff. This will help engine air flow and extend engine life.

#### **MULCHING MOWING TIPS**

**IMPORTANT:** For best performance, keep mower housing free of built-up grass and trash. See "Cleaning" in Maintenance section of this manual.

- The special mulching blade will recut the grass clippings many times and reduce them in size so that as they fall onto the lawn they will disperse into the grass and not be noticed. Also, the mulched grass will biodegrade quickly to provide nutrients for the lawn. Always mulch with your highest engine (blade) speed as this will provide the best recutting action of the blades.
- Avoid cutting your lawn when it is wet. Wet grass tends to form clumps and interferes with the mulching action. The best time to mow your lawn is the early afternoon. At this time the grass has dried and the newly cut area will not be exposed to the direct sun.
- For best results, adjust the lawn mower cutting height so that the lawn mower cuts off only the top one-third of the grass blades. If the lawn is overgrown it will be necessary to raise the height of cut to reduce pushing effort and to keep from overloading the engine and leaving clumps of mulched grass. For extremely heavy mulching, reduce your width of cut by overlapping previously cut path and mow slowly.
- Certain types of grass and grass conditions may require that an area be mulched a second time to completely hide the clippings. When doing a second cut, mow across or perpendicular to the first cut path.
- Change your cutting pattern from week to week. Mow north to south one week then change to east to west the next week. This will help prevent matting and graining of the lawn.



		MA	INT	ENA	NCE					
	MAINTENANCE SCHEDU FILL IN DATES AS YOU COMPLETE REGULAR SERVICE	ULE	BEFO	AL LAC	HUSEUSE EACH USE EACH 10 F EACH 10 F EACH 10 F EACH 10 F EACH 10 F	N 25EA	UPSASON SEASON FOREST	ORAGE	E DAT	ES
MOWER	Check for Loose Fasteners Clean/Inspect Grass Catcher (If Equipped) Clean Lawn Mower Clean Under Drive Cover (Power-Propelled Mowers) Check drive bet/pulleys (Power-Propelled Mowers) Check/Sharpen/Replace Blade Lubrication Chart Clean Battery/Recharge			¥	V V 3 V	K K				
ENGINE	Check Engine Oil Level Change Engine Oil Clean Air Filter Inspect Muffler Clean or Replace Spark Plug Replace Air Filter Paper Cartridge				✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓					

1 - Change more often when operating under a heavy load or in high ambient temperatures.

Service more often when operating in driv or dusty conditions.
 Replace blades more often when mowing in sandy soil.

#### Charge 48 hours at end of season. **GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

The warranty on this lawn mower does not cover items that have been subjected to operator abuse or negligence. To receive full value from the warranty, operator must maintain mower as instructed in this manual.

Some adjustments will need to be made periodically to properly maintain your unit.

All adjustments in the Service and Adjustments section of this manual should be checked at least once each season.

- . Once a year, replace the spark plug, clean or replace air filter element and check blade for wear. A new spark plug and clean/new air filter element assures proper air-fuel mixture and helps your engine run better and last longer.
- Follow the maintenance schedule in this manual.

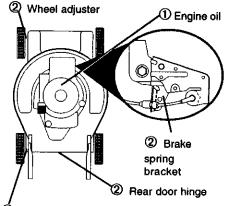
#### **BEFORE EACH USE**

- 1. Check engine oil level.
- 2. Check for loose fasteners.

#### LUBRICATION

Keep unit well lubricated (See "LUBRI-CATION CHART").

#### LUBRICATION CHART



- Handle bracket mounting pin
- ① Refer to maintenance "Engine" section.
- 2 Spray lubricant

IMPORTANT: Do not oil or grease plastic wheel bearings. viscous lubricants will attract dust and dirt that will shorten the life of the self-lubricating bearings. if you feel they must be lubricated, use only a dry, powdered graphite type lubricant sparingly.

#### PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS

1.5 QUARTS UNLEADED REGULAR
SAE 30 (ABOVE 32°F) SAE 5W-30 (BELOW 32°F)
20 OZS.
CHAMPION RJ19LM OR J19LM
INTAKE: .004008 EXHAUST: .004008
.0125 IN.
35-40 FT. LBS.

 The model and serial numbers will be found on a decal attached to the rear of the lawn mower housing. Record both serial number and date of purchase in space provided above.

#### LAWN MOWER

#### TO REPLACE BLADE

- Always observe safety rules when performing any maintenance. TIRES
- Keep tires free of gasoline, oil, or insect control chemicals which can harm
   rubber.
- Avoid stumps, stones, deep ruts, sharp objects and other hazards that may cause tire damage.

#### **BLADE CARE**

For best results, mower blade must be kept sharp. Replace bent or damaged blades.

#### TO REMOVE BLADE

- 1. Disconnect spark plug wire from spark plug and place wire where it cannot come in contact with spark plug.
- 2. Turn lawn mower on its side. Make sure air filter and carburetor are up.
- Use a wood block between blade and mower housing to prevent blade from turning when removing blade bolt.

NOTE: Protect your hands with gloves

- and/or wrap blade with heavy cloth. 4. Remove blade bolt by turning counter-
- clockwise.
- 5. Remove blade and attaching hardware (bolt, lock washer and hardened washer).

**NOTE:** Remove the blade adapter and check the key inside hub of blade adapter. The key must be in good condition to work properly. Replace adapter if damaged.

- 1. Position the blade adapter on the engine crankshaft. Be sure key in adapter and crankshaft keyway are aligned.
- 2. Position blade on the blade adapter aligning the two (2) holes in the blade with the raised lugs on the adapter.
- 3. Be sure the trailing edge of blade (opposite sharp edge) is up toward the engine.
- 4. Install the blade bolt with the lock washer and hardened washer into blade adapter and crankshaft.
- 5. Use block of wood between blade and lawn mower housing and tighten the blade bolt, turning clockwise.
- The recommended tightening torque is 35-40 ft. lbs.

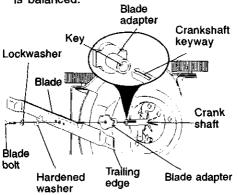
**IMPORTANT:** Blade bolt is grade 8 heat treated.

#### TO SHARPEN BLADE

**NOTE:** We do not recommend sharpening blade - but if you do, be sure the blade is balanced.

Care should be taken to keep the blade balanced. An unbalanced blade will cause eventual damage to lawn mower or engine.

 The blade can be sharpened with a file or on a grinding wheel. Do not attempt to sharpen while on the mower.  To check blade balance, drive a nail into a beam or wall. Leave about one inch of the straight nail exposed. Place center hole of blade over the head of the nail. If blade is balanced, it should remain in a horizontal position. If either end of the blade moves downward, sharpen the heavy end until the blade is balanced.



#### **GRASS CATCHER**

- The grass catcher may be hosed with water, but must be dry when used.
- Check your grass catcher often for damage or deterioration. Through normal use it will wear. If catcher needs replacing, replace only with a manufacturer approved replacement catcher. Give the lawn mower model number when ordering.

#### **DRIVE WHEELS**

Check front drive wheels each time before you mow to be sure they move freely.

The wheels not turning freely means trash, grass cuttings, etc. are in the drive wheel area and must be cleaned to free drive wheels.

If necessary to clean the drive wheels, check both front wheels.

- 1. Remove hubcaps, hairpin cotters and washers.
- 2. Remove wheels from wheel adjusters.
- Remove any trash or grass cuttings from inside the dust cover, pinion and/ or drive wheel gear teeth.
- 4. Put wheels back in place.

**NOTE:** If after cleaning, the drive wheels do not turn freely, contact a Sears or other qualified service center.

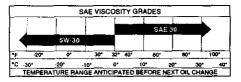
#### **GEAR CASE**

- To keep your drive system working properly, the gear case and area around the drive should be kept clean and free of trash build-up. Clean under the drive cover twice a season.
- The gear case is filled with lubricant to the proper level at the factory. The only time the lubricant needs attention is if service has been performed on the gear case.
- If lubricant is required, use only Texaco Starplex Premium 1 Grease, Part No. 750369. Do not substitute.

#### ENGINE

#### LUBRICATION

Use only high quality detergent oil rated with API service classification SF-SJ. Select the oil's SAE viscosity grade according to your expected operating temperature.



NOTE: Although multi-viscosity oils (5W30, 10W30 etc.) improve starting in cold weather, these multi-viscosity oils will result in increased oil consumption when used above 32°F. Check your engine oil level more frequently to avoid possible engine damage from running low on oil.

Change the oil after every 25 hours of operation or at least once a year if the lawn mower is not used for 25 hours in one year.

Check the crankcase oil level before starting the engine and after each five (5) hours of continuous use. Tighten oil plug securely each time you check the oil level.

#### TO CHANGE ENGINE OIL

**NOTE:** Before tipping lawn mower to drain oil, drain fuel tank by running engine until fuel tank is empty.

- Disconnect spark plug wire from spark plug and place wire where it cannot come in contact with spark plug.
- 2. Remove engine oil cap; lay aside on a clean surface.
- Tip lawn mower on its side as shown and drain oil into a suitable container. Rock lawn mower back and forth to remove any oil trapped inside of engine.
- Wipe off any spilled oil on lawn mower and on side of engine.
- Fill engine with oil. (See "Add Oil" in the Operacion section of this manual.)
- Reconnect spark plug wire to spark plug.

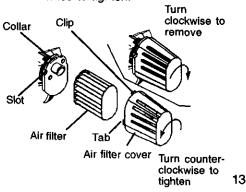


#### AIR FILTER

Your engine will not run properly and may be damaged by using a dirty air filter. Replace the air filter every year, more often if you mow in very dusty, dirty conditions. Do not wash air filter.

#### TO CHANGE AIR FILTER

- Remove the air filter by turning clockwise to the stop and pull away from collar.
- 2. Remove filter from inside of cover.
- Clean the inside of the cover and the collar to remove any dirt accumulation.
- 4. Insert new filter into cover.
- Put air filter cover and filter into collar aligning the tab with the slot.
- Push in on cover and turn counterclockwise to tighten.



#### MUFFLER

Inspect and replace corroded muffler as it could create a fire hazard and/or dam-

#### SPARK PLUG

Change your spark plug each year to make your engine start easier and run better. Set spark plug gap at .030 inch.

#### CLEANING

**IMPORTANT:** For best performance, keep mower housing free of built-up grass and trash. Clean the underside of your mower after each use.

**ACAUTION:** Disconnect spark plug wire from spark plug and place wire where it cannot come in contact with the spark plug.

- Clean the underside of your lawn mower by scraping to remove build-up of grass and trash.
- Clean engine often to keep trash from accumulating. A clogged engine runs hotter and shortens engine life.
- Keep finished surfaces and wheels free of all gasoline, oil,etc.
- We do not recommend using a garden hose to clean lawn mower unless the electrical system, muffler, air filter and carburetor are covered to keep water out. Water in engine can result in shortened engine life.

#### **CLEAN UNDER DRIVE COVER**

Clean under drive cover at least twice a season. Scrape underside of cover with putty knife or similar tool to remove any build-up of trash or grass on underside of drive cover.

#### SERVICE AND ADJUSTMENTS

#### ACAUTION: Before performing any service or adjustments:

- 1. Release control bar and stop engine.
- 2. Make sure the blade and all moving parts have completely stopped.
- 3. Disconnect spark plug wire from spark plug and place where it cannot come in contact with plug.

#### LAWN MOWER

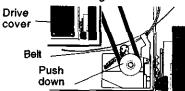
#### TO ADJUST CUTTING HEIGHT

See "TO ADJUST CUTTING HEIGHT" in the Operation section of this manual. REAR DEFLECTOR

The rear deflector, attached between the rear wheels of your mower, is provided to minimize the possibility that objects will be thrown out of the rear of the mower into the operator mowing position. If the deflector becomes damaged, it should be replaced.

#### TO REMOVE/REPLACE DRIVE BELT

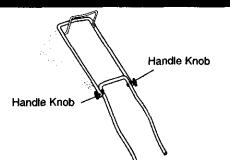
- 1. Remove drive cover. Remove belt from gearcase pulley by pushing down on pulley and rolling belt off it.
- 2. Turn lawn mower on its side with air filter and carburetor up.
- 3. Remove blade,
- 4. Remove debris shield.
- 5. Remove belt from engine pulley on crankshaft.
- 6. Install new belt by reversing above steps.
- Always use factory approved belt to assure fit and long life.



#### **TO ADJUST HANDLE**

The upper handle may be adjusted to four (4) different height positions.

- 1. Loosen both handle knobs only enough to allow the upper handle to pivot to the desired adjustment position..2. Tighten both handle knobs securely.

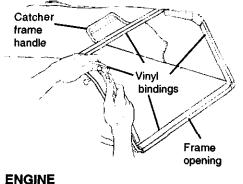


#### TO ASSEMBLE GRASS CATCHER

1. Put grass catcher frame into grass bag with rigid part of bag on the bottom. Make sure the frame handle is outside of the bag top.

2. Slip vinyl bindings over frame. NOTE: If vinvi bindings are too stiff, hold them in warm water for a few minutes. If bag gets wet, let it dry before using.

ACAUTION: Do not run your lawn mower without clipping deflector or approved grass catcher in place. Never attempt to operate the lawn mower with the rear door removed or propped open.



# **ENGINE SPEED**

Your engine speed has been factory set. Do not attempt to increase engine speed or it may result in personal injury. If you believe that the engine is running too fast or too slow, take your lawn mower to a Sears or other qualified service center for repair and adjustment.

#### CARBURETOR

Your carburetor has a non-adjustable fixed main jet for mixture control. If your engine does not operate properly due to suspected carburetor problems, take your lawn mower to a Sears or other qualified service center for repair and/or adjustment. **IMPORTANT:** Never tamper with the engine governor, which is factory set for proper engine speed. Overspeeding the engine above the factory high speed setting can be dangerous. If you think the engine-governed high speed needs adjusting, contact a Sears or other qualified service center, which has proper equipment and experience to make any necessary adjustments.

Immediately prepare your lawn mower for storage at the end of the season or if the unit will not be used for 30 days or more.

#### LAWN MOWER

When lawn mower is to be stored for a period of time, clean it thoroughly, remove all dirt, grease, leaves, etc. Store in a clean, dry area.

- 1. Clean entire lawn mower (See "CLEANING" in the Maintenance section of this manual).
- 2. Lubricate as shown in the Maintenance section of this manual.
- Be sure that all nuts, bolts, screws, and pins are securely fastened. Inspect moving parts for damage, breakage and wear. Replace if necessary.
- Touch up all rusted or chipped paint surfaces; sand lightly before painting.

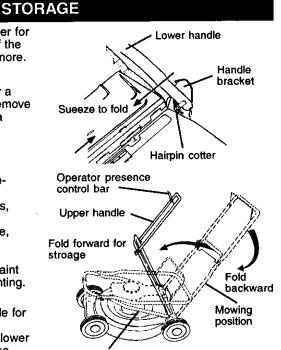
#### HANDLE

You can fold your lawn mower handle for storage.

- Squeeze the bottom ends of the lower handle toward each other until the lower handle clears the handle bracket, then move handle forward.
- Loosen upper handle mounting bolts enough to allow upper handle to be folded back.

**IMPORTANT:** When folding the handle for storage or transportation, be sure to fold the handle as shown or you may damage the control cables.

 When setting up your handle from the storage position, the lower handle will automatically lock into the mowing position.



Lower handle

#### ENGINE FUEL SYSTEM

**IMPORTANT:** It is important to prevent gum deposits from forming in essential fuel system parts such as carburetor, fuel filter, fuel hose, or tank during storage. Also, experience indicates that alcohol blended fuels (called gasohol or using ethanol or methanol) can attract moisture which leads to separation and formation of acids during storage. Acidic gas can damage the fuel system of an engine while in storage.

1. Drain the fuel tank.

- 2. Start the engine and let it run until the fuel lines and carburetor are empty.
- Never use engine or carburetor cleaner products in the fuel tank or permanent damage may occur.

Use fresh fuel next season.

**NOTE:** Fuel stabilizer is an acceptable alternative in minimizing the formation of fuel gum deposits during storage. Add stabilizer to gasoline in fuel tank or storage container. Always follow the mix ratio found on stabilizer container. Run engine at least 10 minutes after adding stabilizer to allow the stabilizer to reach the carburetor. Do not drain the gas tank and carburetor if using fuel stabilizer. **ENGINE OIL** 

Drain oil (with engine warm) and replace with clean engine oil. (See "ENGINE" in the Maintenance section of this manual). **CYLINDER** 

- 1. Remove spark plug.
- Pour one ounce (29 ml) of oil through spark plug hole into cylinder.
- Pull starter handle slowly a few times to distribute oil.
- 4. Replace with new spark plug.

#### OTHER

- Do not store gasoline from one season to another.
- Replace your gasoline can if your can starts to rust. Rust and/or dirt in your gasoline will cause problems.
- If possible, store your unit indoors and cover it to give protection from dust and dirt.
- Cover your unit with a suitable protective cover that does not retain moisture. Do not use plastic. Plastic cannot breathe which allows condensation to form and will cause your unit to rust.

**IMPORTANT**: Never cover mower while engone and exhaust areas are still warm.

**A** CAUTION:Never store the lawn mower with gasoline in the tank inside a building where fumes may reach an open flame or spark. Allow the engine to cool before storing in any enclosure.

#### **TROUBLESHOOTING CHART**

PROBLEM	CAUSE	CORRECTION
Does not start	<ol> <li>Dirty air filter.</li> <li>Out of fuel.</li> <li>Stale fuel.</li> <li>Water in fuel.</li> </ol>	<ol> <li>Clean/replace air filter.</li> <li>Fill fuel tank.</li> <li>Drain tank and refill with fresh clean fuel.</li> <li>Drain fuel tank and carburetor and refill tank with fresh gasoline.</li> </ol>
	<ol> <li>Spark plug wire is disconnected.</li> <li>Bad spark plug.</li> <li>Loose blade or broken blade adapter.</li> <li>Control bar in released position.</li> <li>Control bar defective.</li> </ol>	<ol> <li>Connect wire to plug.</li> <li>Replace spark plug.</li> <li>Tighten blade bolt or replace blade adapter.</li> <li>Depress control bar to handle.</li> <li>Replace control bar.</li> </ol>
Loss of power	<ol> <li>Rear of lawn mower housing or cutting blade dragging in heavy grass.</li> <li>Cutting too much grass.</li> <li>Dirty air filter.</li> <li>Buildup of grass, leaves, and trash under mower.</li> <li>Too much oil in engine.</li> <li>Walking speed too fast.</li> </ol>	<ol> <li>Set to "Higher Cut" position.</li> <li>Set to "Higher Cut" position.</li> <li>Clean/replace air filter.</li> <li>Clean underside of mower housing.</li> <li>Check oil level.</li> <li>Cut at slower walking speed.</li> </ol>
Poor cut – uneven	<ol> <li>Worn, bent or loose blade.</li> <li>Wheel heights uneven.</li> <li>Buildup of grass, leaves and trash under mower.</li> </ol>	<ol> <li>Replace blade. Tighten blade bolt.</li> <li>Set all wheels at same height</li> <li>Clean underside of mower housing.</li> </ol>
Excessive vibration	<ol> <li>Worn, bent or loose blade.</li> <li>Bent engine crankshaft.</li> </ol>	<ol> <li>Replace blade. Tighten blade bolt.</li> <li>Contact a Sears or other qualified service center.</li> </ol>
Starter rope hard to pull	<ol> <li>Engine flywheel brake is on when control bar is released.</li> <li>Bent engine crankshaft.</li> <li>Blade adapter broken.</li> <li>Blade dragging in grass.</li> </ol>	<ol> <li>Depress control bar to upper handle before pulling starter rope.</li> <li>Contact a Sears or other qualified service center.</li> <li>Replace blade adapter.</li> <li>Move lawn mower to cut grass or to hard surface.</li> </ol>
Loss of drive	<ol> <li>Drive wheels not turning with drive control engaged.</li> <li>Belt not driving</li> </ol>	<ol> <li>Adjust or replace drive control cable.</li> <li>Put belt on pulleys or replace belts if broken.</li> </ol>

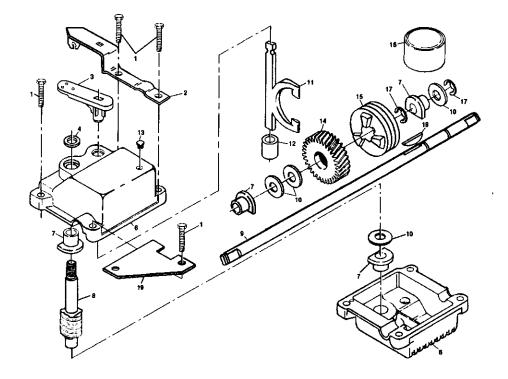
# TROUBLESHOOTING CHART

PROBLEM	CAUSE	CORRECTION
Grass catcher not filling (if so equipped)	<ol> <li>Cutting height too low.</li> <li>Lift on blade worn off.</li> <li>Catcher not venting air.</li> </ol>	<ol> <li>Raise cutting height.</li> <li>Replace blade.</li> <li>Clean grass catcher.</li> </ol>
Hard to push	<ol> <li>Grass is too high or wheel height is too low.</li> <li>Rear of lawn mower housing or blade dragging in grass.</li> <li>Grass catcher too full.</li> <li>Handle height position not right for you.</li> </ol>	<ol> <li>Raise cutting height.</li> <li>Raise rear of lawn mower housing one (1) setting higher.</li> <li>Empty grass catcher.</li> <li>Adjust handle height to suit.</li> </ol>

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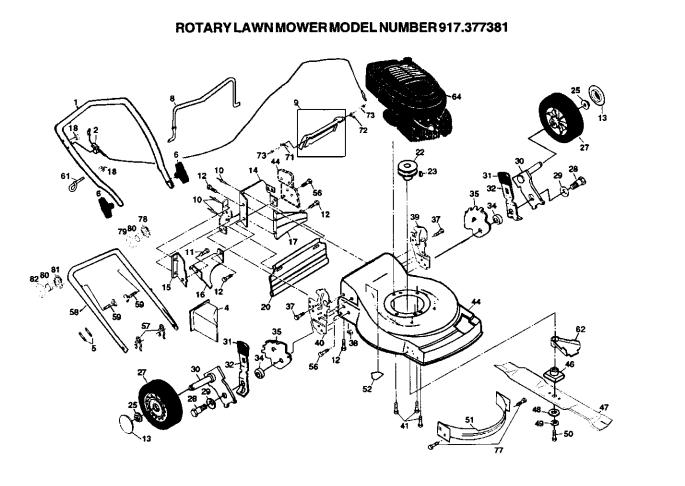
# **REPAIR PARTS**

# ROTARY LAWN MOWER -- MODEL NO. 917.377381 GEAR CASE ASSEMBLY PART NUMBER 702511



KEY NO.	PART NO.	DESCRIPTION	KEY NO.	PART NO.	DESCRIPTION
1	17490416	Tapping Screw 1/4-20 x 1-1/4	9 10	137074 57079	Drive Shaft Hardened Washer
2	137055X004	Engagement Bracket	11	131484	Clutch Yoke
3	137053	Shifter	12	700343	Bushing
4	57072	Seal	13	86447	Plug
6	48373	Gear Case Halves Kit (Includes Key Nos. 4,	14 15	137050 750436X	Helical Gear Clutch Jaw
7 8	77881 137051	and 7) Bearing Worm Shaft	16 17 18 19	750369 12000003 850848 81585X004	Grease E-Ring Hi-Pro Key Spring Bracket

**NOTE:** All component dimensions given in U.S. inches. 1 inch = 25.4 mm



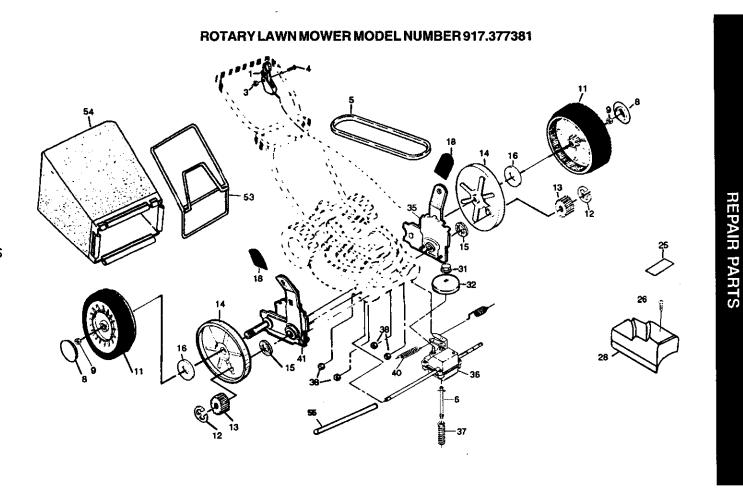
REPAIR PARTS

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		ey part O. NO.	DESCRIPTION	KEY NO.	PART NO.	DESCRIPTION
	1	169933X479	Upper Handle	44	172835	Lawn Mower Housing (Incl. Key #14, 15, 51 & 52)
	2	164322	Engine Zone Control Cable	46	851514	Blade Adapter
	4	150425	Mulcher Plug	47	141114	Blade 22"
	5	66426	Wire Tie	48	851074	Hardened Washer
	6	136376	Handle Knob	49	850263	Helical Washer 3/8-24 x 1-3/8 Gr. 8
	8	169936	Control Bar	50	851084	Hex Head Machine Screw 3/8-24 x 1-3/8 Gr. 8
	9	170947	EZ Rear Door Kit	51	170031	Kit Baffle
	10	128415	Pop Rivet	52	85463	Danger Decal
	11	150050	Self Tapping Screw #10-16 x 1/2	56	88652	Hinge Screw 1/4-20 x 1-1/4
	12	STD512505	Hex Tapping Screw w/Sems 1/4-20 x 1/2	57	51793	Hairpin Cotter
	13	150181	Hubcap	58	151590X479	LowerHandle
Co.	14	156374X479	Back Plate	59	171407	Handle Bolt
ജ	15	700365X4 <b>79</b>	Side Baffle	61	132001	Rope Guide
	16	133190X479	Discharge Baffle	62	134612	Debris Shield
	17	140661X479	Rear Baffle	64		Engine-Craftsman - Model No. 143.016700
	18	63601	Keps Locknut 1/4-20	71	170939	Spring RH
	20	140540	Rear Skirt	72	170938	SpringLH
	22	85543	Engine Pulley	73	165912	Bolt
	23	87677	Hi-Pro Key #505	77	17600406	Screw. Hx. Serrated, 1/4 x 20
	25	83923	Hex Flange Nut	78	170954	Handle Adjuster, Outside, LH
	27	150341	Wheel	79	170953	Handle Adjuster, Inside, LH
	28	142748	Shoulder Bolt 3/8-16 x 1	80	170554	Handle Adjuster Spring
	29	62335	Spring Washer	81	170955	Handle Adjuster, Inside, RH
	30	145935X004	Axle Arm Assembly	82	170956	Handle Adjuster, Outside, RH
	31	701037	Selector Knob		161058	Warning Decal (Not Shown)
	32	700331X004	Selector Spring		175864	Owner's Manual (English/Spanish)
	34	146630	Spacer			
	35	700325X007	Wheel Adjusting Bracket (Right)	Availa	able accessories	s not included with lawn mower:
	37	150078	Thread Cutting Screw w/Sems 5/16-18 x 3/4		D/98 33313	Clipping Deflector
	38	751592	Nut		71 33500	Fuel Stabilzer
	39	173569X479	Handle Bracket Assembly (Left)		71 33300	SAE 30W Oil (20 oz.)
	40	173570X479	Handle Bracket Assembly (Right)			• •
	41	150406	Hex Head Thread Rolling Screw 3/8-16 x 1-1/8			



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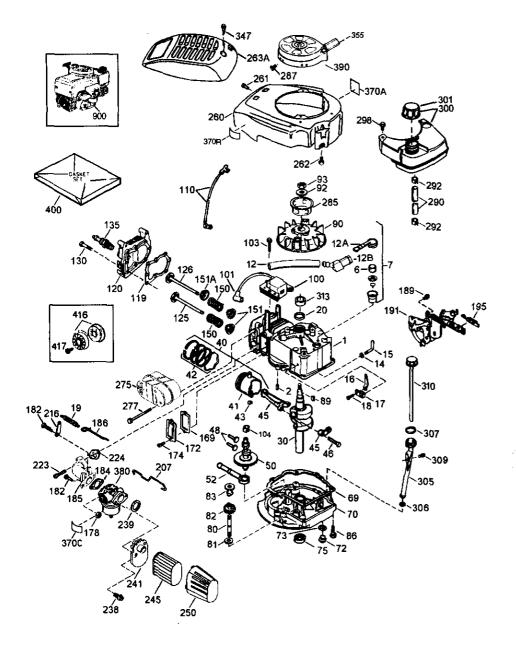
#### ROTARY LAWN MOWER MODEL NUMBER 917.377381

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key No.	part No.	DESCRIPTION	KEY NO.	part No.	DESCRIPTION
1 3 4 5 6 8 9 11 12 13 14 15 16 18	146323 751152 158755 146527 150495 150182 145212 150340 12000058 137054 88080 88118 67725 701037	Control Cable Assembly Locknut #10-24 Hex Washer Head Screw 1/4-20 x 2.12 V-Bett Spring Retainer Hubcap Locknut Wheel & Tire Assembly E-Ring Pinion Dust Cover Felt Washer Washer 1/2 x 1-1/2 x .134 Selector Knob	25 26 28 31 27 27 28 26 27 28 27 28 27 28 29 24 20 25 26 27 28 29 29 29 29 29 29 29 29 29 29 29 29 29	166732 143603 154990 132010 137052 151521 702511 137090 STD541425 75192 151520 169931 169932 86012	Drive Cover Decal Pan Head Tapping Screw #10-24 x 2-3/4 Drive Cover Hex Flange Nut Drive Pulley Wheel Adjuster Assembly (Left) Gear Case Assembly Spring Locknut 1/4-20 Spring Wheel Adjuster Assembly (Right) Catcher Frame Grassbag Assembly Driveshaft Cover

MODEL NO. 143.016700



#### CRAFTSMAN 4-CYCLE ENGINE KEY PART

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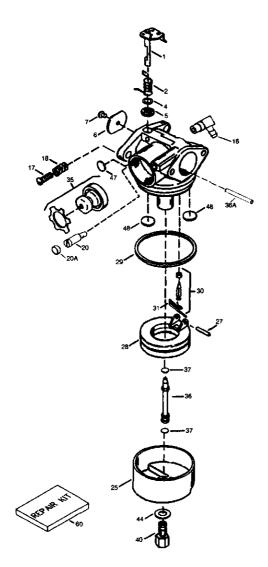
#### MODEL NO. 143.016700

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KEY		4-CYCLE ENGINE	VEV	DADT	
NO.	NO.	DESCRIPTION	KEY NO.	PART NO.	DESCRIPTION
1	37465	Cylinder (Incl. 2 & 20)	178	29752	Nut & Lock Washer, 1/4-28
2	26727	Dowel Pin	182	6201	Screw, 1/4-28 x 7/8"
6 7	33734 36557	Breather Element Breather Ass'y. (Incl. 6 & 12A)	184	26756	<ul> <li>Carburetor To Intake Pipe</li> </ul>
12	36775	Breather Tube	105	07466	Gasket
12A	36558	Breather Cover & Tube (Incl.	185 186	37466 32653	Intake Pipe Governor Link
		12B)	189	650839	Screw, 1/4-20 x 3/8"
12B	36694	Breather Tube Elbow	191	36559A	S.E. Brake Bracket (Incl. 195
14 15	28277	Washer Governor Rod (Incl. 14)	195	610973	Terminal
16	30589 34839A	Governor Lever	207	34336	Throttle Link
17	31335	Governor Lever Clamp	216 223	33086 650451	R.P.M. Adjusting Lever Screw, 1/4-20 x 1"
18	651018	Screw, Torx T-15, 8-32 x 19/	224	36786	* Intake Pipe Gasket
		64	238	650932	Screw, 10-32 x 49/64"
19 20	36281 32600	Extension Spring	239	34338	* Air Cleaner Gasket
30	32600	Oil Seal Crankshaft	241	36919	Air Cleaner Collar
4Ŏ	40027	Piston, Pin & Ring Set (Std.)	245	36905	Air Cleaner Filter
41	40042	Piston & Pin Ass'y. (Std.)	250 260	37122 36980	Air Cleaner Cover Blower Housing
		(Incl. 43)	261	30200	Screw, 10-24 x 9/16"
12	40006	Ring Set (Std.)	262	650831	Screw, 1/4-20 x 1/2"
13 15	20381 36777	Piston Pin Retaining Ring Connecting Rod Ass'y. (Incl.		37184	Recoil Grille
	30111	46)	275	37462	Muffler
16	32610A	Connecting Rod Bolt	277 285	650988 35000A	Screw, 1/4-20 x 2-5/16" Starter Cup
18	27241	Valve Lifter	287	650926	Screw, 8-32 x 21/64*
50	37460	Camshaft Exhaust(MCR)(Inc.	290	29774	Fuel Line
52	29914	ref 104) Oil Pump Ass'y.	292	26460	Fuel Line Clamp
59	37130	* Mounting Flange Gasket	298	28763	Screw, 10-32 x 35/64"
70	34311E	Mounting Flange (Incl. 72	300 301	36916 36246	Fuel Tank (Incl. 292 & 301) Fuel Cap (Black)
		thru 83)	305	35647	Oil Fill Tube
72 73	30572	Oil Drain Plug (Incl. 73	306	36996	* "O"-Ring
75	28833 27897	Drain Plug Gasket Oil Seal	307	35499	"O"-Rina
sõ	30574A	Governor Shaft	309	650562	Screw, 10-32 x 1/2"
31	30590A	Washer	310 313	35648 34080	Dipstick Spacer
32	30591	Governor Gear Ass'y. (Incl.	347	651038	Spacer Screw, 10-32 x 51/64"
	005004	81)		36261	Lubrication Decal
33 36	30588A 650488	Governor Spool Screw, 1/4-20 x 1-1/4"		37318	Primer Decal (3 X)
39	611004	Flywheel Key		37317	Warning Decal
90	611112	FlywheelA	380 390	640271	Carburetor (Incl. 184)
2	650815	Bélleville Washer	400	590739 36792B	Rewind Starter Gasket Set (Incl. Items
13	650816	Flywheel Nut		00/020	Marked * in Notes)
00	34443C 610118	Solid State Ignition Spark Plug Cover	416	36085	Spark Arrestor Kit (Incl.
ŏз	651007	Screw, Torx T-15, 10-24 x 15/	447	050300	417)(Optional)
		16	417 900	650760	Screw, 8-32 x 3/8" (Optional) Replacement Engine NONE
04	37480	Cam Bushing	900		Replacement S/B 750865
10 19	37047 36787	Ground Wire			Order from 71 -999
20	36825	* Cylinder Head Gasket Cylinder Head		<u> </u>	RPM High 2900 to 3200
25	36780	Exhaust Valve (1/32" OS)	NOTE	. This and	ing any later to an exite with
		(Incl. 151)		2 starter	ine could have been built with
	37288	Exhaust Valve (Std.) (Incl.	00070	2 Starter	
26	37289	151) Intako Valvo (Std.) (Incl. 151)			onent dimensions given in U.S.
30	6021A	Intake Valve (Std.) (Incl. 151) Screw, 5/16-18 x 1-1/2"	inches	1  inch = 2	25.4 mm
35	37598	Resistor Spark Plug			
		(RJ19LM4)			
	31672	Valve Spring			
51	31673	Valve Spring Cap			
	40017	Intake Valve Seal			
151		Valve Spring Cap Intake Valve Seal * Valve Cover Gasket Valve Cover			

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MODEL NO. 143.016700

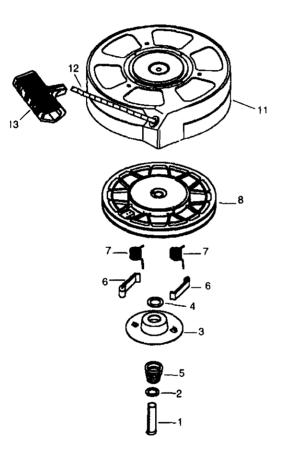


#### MODEL NO. 143.016700

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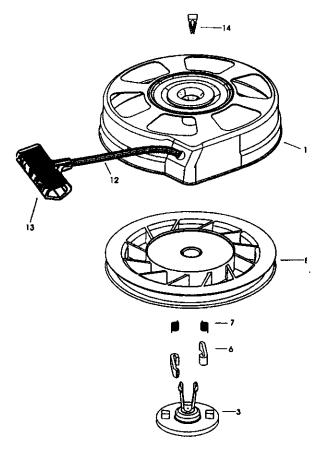
2       31767       Throttle Return Spring         4       631184       Dust Seal Washer         5       631183       Dust Seal (Throttle)         6       640070       Throttle Shutter         7       650506       Shutter Screw         16       631807       Fuel Fitting         17       651025       Throttle Crack Screw/Idle Speed Screw         18       630766       Tension Spring
16 631807 Fuel Fitting 17 651025 Throttle Crack Screw/Idle Speed Screw 18 630766 Tension Spring
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17 651025 Throttle Crack Screw/Idle Speed Screw 18 630766 Tension Spring
18 630766 Tension Spring
20A 640200 Idle Restrictor Scrwe Cap (Black)
25 631867 Float Bowl
27 631024 * Float Shaft
28 632019 Float
29 631028 * Float Bowl "O" Ring
30 631021 * Inlet Needle, Seat, & Clip (Incl. 31)
31 631022 Spring Clip
35 640259 Primer Bulb/Retainer Ring
36 640080 Main Nozzle Tube
36A 632766 Carburetor Tube
37 632547 * "O" Ring, Main Nozzle Tube
40 640030 High Speed Bowl Nut
44 27110A * Bowl Nut Washer 47 630748 * Welch Plug, Idle Mixture Well
48 631027 * Welch Plug, Atmospheric Vent 60 632760B Repair kit (Incl. Items Marked * in Notes)

MODEL NO. 143.016700



KEY	PART	
NO.	NO.	DESCRIPTION
_	590702	Recoil Starter
1	590599A	•••••
		Spring Pin (Incl. 4)
2	590600	Washer
3	590696	Retainer
4	590601	Washer
5	590697	Brake Spring
6	590698	Starter Dog
7	590699	Dog Spring
8	590700	Pulley & Rewind
		Spring Ass'y
11	590703	Starter Housing Ass'y.
		(40 degree grommet)
12	590535	Starter Rope
		(98" X 9/64" dia.)
13	590701	Starter Handle

MODEL NO. 143.016700



# KEY<br/>NO.PART<br/>NO.DESCRIPTION-590739<br/>590740Rewind Starter<br/>Retainer<br/>6<br/>590616Starter Dog<br/>Starter Dog<br/>905177590617<br/>590618A<br/>1Dog Spring<br/>Pulley & Rewind Spring Ass'y<br/>(40 degree grommet)12590535<br/>59070113590701<br/>59076014590760590760Spring Clip

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www.sears.com

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#### 1-800-827-6655

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