HEED EATER

® Trademark

?

Please do not return unit to retailer. Por favor, no devuelva el aparato al lugar de compra. Veuillez ne pas retourner l'outil au détaillant.

1-800-554-6723

www.weedeater.com

Instruction Manual Manual de Instrucciones Manuel d'Instructions

PE550





WARNING:

Read and follow all Safety Rules and Operating Instructions before using this product. Failure to do so can result in serious injury.

ADVERTENCIA:

Lea el manual de instrucciones y siga todas las advertencias e instrucciones de seguridad. El no hacerlo puede resultar en lesiones graves.

AVERTISSEMENT:

Lire le manuel d'instructions et bien respecter tous les avertissements et toutes les instructions de sécurité. Tout défaut de le faire pourrait entraîner des blessures graves.

Electrolux Home Products North America Div. of WCI Outdoor Products, Inc. Augusta, GA 30907

From the Electrolux Group. The world's No.1 choice.

KITCHEN, CLEANING AND OUTDOOR APPLIANCES COMBINED

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10/26/01

SAFETY RULES

AWARNING: When using gardening appliances, basic safety precautions must always be followed to reduce the risk of fire and serious injury. Read and follow all instructions.

This power unit can be dangerous! Operator is responsible for following instructions and warnings on unit and in manual. Read entire instruction manual before using unit! Be thoroughly familiar with the controls and the proper use of the unit. Restrict the use of this unit to persons who have read, understand and will follow the instructions and warnings on the unit and in the manual. Never allow children to operate this unit.

OPERATOR SAFETY

- Dress properly. Always wear safety glasses or similar eye protection when operating, or performing maintenance on your unit (safety glasses are available). Eye protection should meet the requirements of ANSI Z87.1.
- Always wear face or dust mask if operation is dusty.
- Always wear heavy, long pants, long sleeves, boots, and gloves. Do not go barefoot or wear sandals.
- Secure hair above shoulder length Secure or remove loose clothing or clothing with loosely hanging ties, straps, tassels, etc. They can be caught in moving parts.
- Being fully covered also helps protect you from debris and pieces of toxic plants thrown by spinning blade.
- thrown by spinning blade.

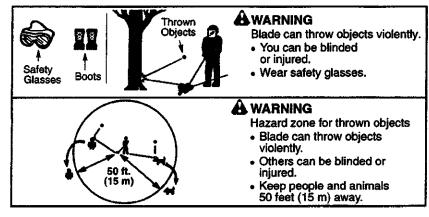
 Stay alert. Do not operate when you are tired, ill, upset, or under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or medication. Watch what you are doing; use common sense.
- Wear hearing protection when using this unit.
- Never start or run inside a closed room, building or other unventilated area. Breathing exhaust fumes can kill.
- Keep handles free of oil and fuel.

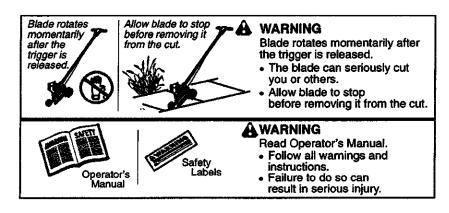
- · Always use the handle.
- Keep hands and feet away from cutting area.
- Do not attempt to remove cut material nor hold material to be cut when engine is running or when cutting member is moving.
- Make sure spark plug is disconnected when cleaning jammed material from cutting member.
- Never direct discharge of material toward bystanders nor allow anyone near the area of operation. Use care in directing discharge to avoid glass enclosures, automobiles, and the like.
- Don't overreach or stand on unstable support. Keep good footing and balance at all times.

UNIT SAFETY

- Inspect entire unit before each use. Replace damaged parts. Check for fuel leaks. Make sure all fasteners are in place and securely fastened.
- Maintain the unit according to recommended procedures.
- Throw away blades that are bent, warped, cracked, broken, or damaged in any other way. Replace parts that are cracked, chipped, or damaged before using the unit
- chipped, or damaged before using the unit.

 Use only recommended Weed Eater parts and accessories. Never use wire, wire rope, string, flailing devices, etc.
- Disconnect the spark plug before performing maintenance except carburetor adjustments
- Be sure the blade stops turning when the engine idles (see CARBURETOR AD-JUSTMENTS).
- Remove the blade before making carburetor adjustments. Hold the unit by hand. Do not make carburetor adjustments from the blade side of the unit.
- Keep others away when making carburetor adjustments.
- Never start the unit with the gearbox removed. The clutch can fly off and cause serious injury.
- Have all maintenance and service not explained in this manual performed by an authorized authorized service dealer.





EDGING SAFETY

- · Inspect the area to be edged before each use. Remove objects (rocks, broken glass, nails, wire, string, etc.) which can be thrown by the blade or can wrap around the shaft.
- Keep others including children, animals, bystanders, and helpers at least 50 feet (15 meters) away. Stop the unit immediately if you aré approached.
- Hold the unit firmly with both hands.
- Keep firm footing and balance. Do not overreach or stand on unstable support.
- · Do not attempt to remove cut material nor hold material to be cut when the engine is running or when cutting member is moving.

 Always keep the wheels and skid in contact
- with the ground.
- Keep all parts of your body away from the blade and muffler.
- Always push the unit slowly over the Stay alert for uneven sidewalks, holes in the terrain, large roots, etc.

 • Use only for jobs explained in this manual.
- HANDLE FUEL WITH CAUTION, IT

IS HIGHLY FLAMMABLE

- . Mix and pour fuel outdoors and where there are not sparks or flames.
- Always store gasoline in a container approved for flammable liquids.
- Do not smoke or allow smoking near fuel or the unit; do not smoke while using the unit.
- Make sure the unit is properly assembled and in good operating condition.
- Avoid spilling fuel or oil. Wipe up all fuel spills before starting unit.
- Move at least 10 feet (3 meters) away from fueling site before starting engine.
- Stop engine and allow to cool before removing fuel cap.
- . Do not store the unit with fuel in the fuel tank; use up fuel left in the carburetor and fuel line by starting the unit and letting it run until it stops.
- · Store unit and fuel in an area where fuel vapors cannot reach sparks or open flames from water heaters, electric motors or switches, furnaces, etc.

TRANSPORTING AND STORAGE

- · Do not grasp or hold exposed blade.
- Stop unit before leaving work area.

- Allow unit to cool, run fuel out of the fuel tank, and secure the unit before storing or transporting it in a vehicle.
- Before storing, use up fuel left in the carbu-retor by starting the unit and letting it run until it stops. Always allow the unit to cool before storage
- Store unit and fuel in area where fuel vapors cannot reach sparks or open flames from water heaters, electric motors or switches, furnaces, etc.
- Store unit so blade cannot accidentally cause injury.
- Store unit out of reach of children.

If situations occur which are not covered in this manual, use care and good judgment. If you need assistance, call 1-800-554-6723.

SPECIAL NOTICE: This unit is not equipped with a temperature limiting muffler and spark arresting screen which meets the require-ments of California Codes 4442 and 4443. All U.S. forest land and the states of California, Idaho, Maine, Minnesota, New Jersey, Oregon, and Washington require by law that many internal combustion engines be equipped with a spark arrestor screen. If you operate in a locale where such regulations exist, you are legally responsible for installing and maintaining the operating condition of these parts. Failure to do so is a violation of the law.

SPECIAL NOTICE: Exposure to vibrations through prolonged use of gasoline powered hand tools could cause blood vessel or nerve damage in the fingers, hands, and joints of people prone to circulation disorders or abnormal swellings. Prolonged use in cold weather has been linked to blood vessel damage in otherwise healthy people. If symptoms occur such as numbness, pain, loss of strength, change in skin color or texture, or loss of feeling in the fingers, hands, or joints, discontinue the use of this tool and seek medical attention. An anti-vibration system does not guarantee the avoidance of these problems. Users who operate power tools on a continual and regular basis must monitor closely their physical condition and the condition of this tool.

SAVE THESE INSTRUCTIONS

ASSEMBLY

NOTE: If you need assistance or find parts missing or damaged, call 1-800-554-6723.

ASSEMBLY

AWARNING: If received assembled, repeat all steps to ensure your unit is properly assembled and all fasteners are secure.

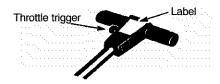
This instruction manual has been developed to help you assemble the unit and to provide its safe operation. It is important that you read the entire manual to become familiar with the unit before you begin assembly. Read your instruction manual.

Tools you will need:

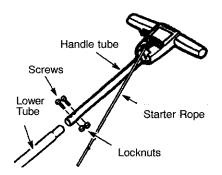
- Adjustable wrench
- · Hex wrench (provided)

TUBE ASSEMBLY

NOTE: When performing the following step, be sure the handle is aligned as follows: label on top, throttle trigger to the operator's right hand side. The starter rope and the throttle cable must not wrap around the tube.

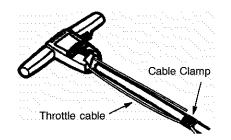


- · Assemble handle tube to the lower tube (it will be necessary to pull some of the starter rope out of the housing).
 Align the screw holes; insert the screws through the aligned holes.
 Thread one locknut onto each screw and
- tighten securely.



NOTE: When performing the following step, be sure the starter rope is not caught under the cable clamp. The starter rope must hang freely to operate properly.

• Align the cable clamp between the tube screws. Install the cable clamp around the tube and throttle cable.



FUEL YOUR UNIT

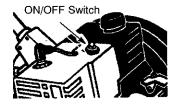
WARNING: Remove fuel cap slowly when refueling.

This engine is certified to operate on unleaded gasoline. Before operation, gasoline must be mixed with a good quality 2-cycle air-cooled engine oil. We recommend Poulan/ Weed Eater brand oil. Mix gasoline and oil at a ratio of 40:1 (A 40:1 ratio is obtained by mixing 3.2 ounces of oil with 1 gallon of unleaded gasoline). DO NOT use automotive oil or boat oil. These oils will cause engine damage. When mixing fuel, follow instructions printed on container. Once oil is added to gasoline, shake container momentarily to assure that the fuel is thoroughly mixed. Always read and follow the safety rules relating to fuel before fueling your unit.

STARTING

STOPPING YOUR ENGINE

- To stop a running engine, move the switch to the OFF position.
- If engine does not stop, move choke lever to FULL CHOKE position.



STARTING YOUR ENGINE

⚠ DANGER: The cutting blade will turn when the engine starts.

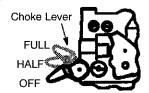
WARNING: Avoid any contact with the muffler. A hot muffler can cause serious

· Rest the unit on the ground. Support the unit so the blade is off of the ground and away from trees, bushes, onlookers, etc.

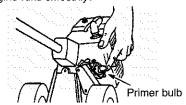


STARTING A COLD ENGINE OR A WARM ENGINE AFTER RUNNING **OUT OF FUEL**

- Make sure switch is in ON position.
- Slowly press the primer bulb 6 times. Move choke lever to FULL CHOKE posi-



· Squeeze and hold the throttle trigger. Keep throttle trigger fully squeezed until the engine runs smoothly.



Pull starter rope sharply 5 times.

NOTE: The engine may sound as if it is trying to start before the 5th pull. If so, go to the next step immediately

- · Move the choke lever to the HALF CHOKE
- position.
 Pull starter rope sharply until engine runs,

but no more than 6 pulls.

NOTE: If the engine has not started after 6 pulls (at HALF CHOKE), check to make sure the choke lever is in the proper position. Then, move the choke lever to the FULL CHOKE position and press the primer bulb 6 times; squeeze and hold the throttle trigger and pull the starter rope 2 more times. Move the choke lever to the HALF CHOKE position and pull the starter rope until the engine runs, but no more than 6 more pulls. If the engine still has not started, it is probably flooded. Proceed to STARTING A FLOODED ENGINE.

 Allow the engine to run 10 seconds, then move the choke lever to the OFF CHOKE position. Allow the unit to run for 30 more seconds at OFF CHOKE before releasing the throttle trigger.

NOTE: If engine dies with the choke lever at the OFF CHOKE position, move the choke lever to HALF CHOKE and pull the rope until engine runs.

STARTING A WARM ENGINE THAT HAS NOT RUN OUT OF FUEL:

- · Make sure switch is in ON position.
- Move the choke lever to the HALF CHOKE position.
- Squeeze and hold the throttle trigger. Keep throttle trigger fully squeezed until the en-
- fhrottle trigger runy squeezed and gine runs smoothly.

 Pull starter rope sharply until engine runs, but no more than 5 pulls.
- Allow engine to run 10 seconds, then move the choke lever to OFF CHOKE position. Release the throttle trigger.

NOTE: If engine has not started, pull starter rope 5 more pulls. If engine still does not run, it is probably flooded. Proceed to STARTING A FLOODED ENGINE.

STARTING A FLOODED ENGINE

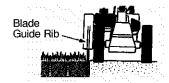
Flooded engines can be started by placing the switch in the ON position and the choke lever in the OFF CHOKE position. Squeeze and hold the throttle trigger; then, pull the rope to clear the engine of excess fuel. This could require pulling the starter rope many times depending on how badly the unit is flooded.

USING YOUR UNIT

EDGING

As you become familiar with your edger, you will be able to determine your own operating pace. Conditions such as depth of cut and material being cut will regulate the speed and time required for your edging job.

- Allow the engine to warm up for one minute
- before you begin edging.
- Increase the engine speed before placing the blade in the cut. For best operation, run the engine at full throttle while cutting.
- Keep you edging path straight by aligning the blade guide rib on the rear of the blade guard with the edge of the sidewalk. Keep all wheels flat on the walkway.



- · Always work going away from people and solid objects such as walls, large stones, trees, automobiles, etc.
- Be careful when edging near trees or valuable plants. The high speed metal blade may cut roots and cause damage to the plants.
- If the blade stalls, immediately move the unit rearward slightly to allow the blade to restart. If the blade continues to stall, stop the engine, disconnect the spark plug, and inspect for blockage or damage.

 Always keep the blade area clean. Stop the engine, make sure the blade has complete-
- ly stopped turning, and disconnect the spark plug before cleaning.

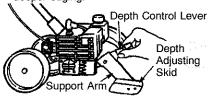
SETTING THE EDGING DEPTH

WARNING: Never attempt to adjust the depth adjusting skid when the engine is running. Always release the throttle trigger, wait until the blade stops turning, move the ON/OFF switch to the OFF position, and disconnect spark plug before making adjustments. Your edger is equipped with several edging depths. The depth used will depend on your personal edging preference and the condition of the area where the edging operation is to be done.

NOTE: If the area to be edged has never been cut or several weeks have passed since the last cut, the first edging should be done at no more than half depth.

To set the depth:

- Move the depth control lever forward for shallower edging.
- Move the depth control lever backward for deeper edging.



When edging, the trigger handle must be raised until the skid rests on the ground. The trigger handle must be held in the raised position during the entire edging operation to maintain a consistent edging depth.

DEPTH ADJUSTING SKID

The surface of the depth adjusting skid will wear over a period of time. This part is reversible to provide a second wear surface.

- Remove the two mounting screws which hold the skid to the support arm.
- · Rotate the skid 180 degrees.

· Reinstall the mounting screws.

EDGING TIPS

- · Inspect unit before each use.
- Inspect the area to be cut before each use.
- Keep unit in front of your body.
- · Cut at full throttle.
- Keep the wheels and skid in contact with the ground.
- Always work going away from others.

SERVICE

We recommend all service and adjustments not listed in this manual be performed by an authorized authorized service dealer.

CARBURETOR ADJUSTMENTS

Your carburetor is equipped with limiter caps. Damage will occur if you turn the needles beyond the limiter caps. Carburetor adjustment is a complicated task. We recommend that you take your unit to an authorized authorized service dealer.

IGNITION TIMING

Ignition timing is fixed, nonadjustable.

SPARK PLUG

Replace the spark plug yearly using a Champion RCJ-8Y plug. Spark plug gap is 0.025".

BLADE MAINTENANCE

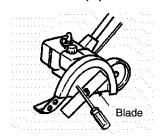
WARNING: The blade will continue to spin after the engine stops or after the throttle trigger has been released. Make sure the blade has stopped coasting and disconnect the spark plug before performing work on the blade.

Always replace a blade that is bent, warped, cracked, broken, or damaged in any other way. Never attempt to straighten and reuse a damaged blade. Use only specified replacement blade.

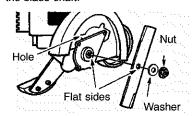
- The blade is reversible. When the cutting edge on one side becomes worn, turn the blade over
- Check blade for flatness periodically. Lay the blade on a flat surface to inspect for flatness. Throw away a blade that is not flat.

BLADE REPLACEMENT

WARNING: Wear protective gloves when handling or performing maintenance on the blade to avoid injury.



 To remove the blade, insert a screwdriver into the hole in the gearbox; then, remove the nut (clockwise), washer and blade from the blade shaft.



- Align the flat area of the blade opening with the flat side of the shaft. Place the new blade on the shaft.
- Install the washer and nut; turn nut counterclockwise on the blade shaft.
- Bind blade by inserting a screwdriver in to the hole in the gearbox; then, firmly tighten nut with a wrench.

TROUBLESHOOTING TABLE



WARNING: Always stop unit and disconnect spark plug before performing any of the recommended remedies below other than remedies that require operation of

TROUBLE	CAUSE	REMEDY
Engine will not start.	 Engine flooded. Fuel tank empty. Spark plug not firing. Fuel not reaching carburetor. Carburetor requires adjustment. 	 See "Starting." Fill tank with correct fuel mixture. Install new spark plug. Check for dirty fuel filter; replace. Check for kinked or split fuel line; repair or replace. Contact your authorized service dealer.
Engine will not idle properly.	Carburetor requires adjustment.	See "Carburetor Adjustments."
Engine will not accelerate, lacks power, or dies under a load.	Air filter dirty. Spark plug fouled. Carburetor requires adjustment.	Clean or replace air filter. Clean or replace spark plug and re-gap. See "Carburetor Adjustments."
Engine smokes excessively.	Fuel mixture incorrect. Air filter dirty. Carburetor requires adjustment.	Empty fuel tank and refill with correct fuel mixture. Clean or replace air filter. See "Carburetor Adjustments."

NEED ASSISTANCE?

Need Assistance? Call 1-800-554-6723. **Need Service Parts?** Contact your dealer.

LIMITED WARRANTY

ELECTROLUX HOME PRODUCTS NORTH AMERICA, Division of WCI Outdoor Products, Inc., warrants to the original purchaser that each new Weed Eater brand gasoline tool or attachment is free from defects in material and workmanship and agrees to repair or re-place under this warranty any defective gaso-line product or attachment as follows from the original date of purchase.

2 YEARS-Parts and Labor, when used for

household purposes

90 DAYS-Parts and Labor, when used for commercial, professional, or income producing pur-

30 DAYS-Parts and Labor, if used for rental

This warranty is not transferable and does not cover damage or liability caused by improper handling, improper maintenance, or the use of accessories and/or attachments not specifically recommended by ELECTROLUX HOME PRODUCTS NORTH AMERICA for this tool. Additionally, this warranty does not cover tuneups, spark plugs, filters, etc., that will wear and require replacement with reasonable use during the warranty period. This warranty does not cover predelivery setup or normal adjustments explained in the instruction manual.

THIS WARRANTY GIVES YOU SPECIFIC LEGAL RIGHTS, AND YOU MAY HAVE OTHER RIGHTS WHICH VARY FROM STATE TO STATE.

NO CLAIMS FOR CONSEQUENTIAL OR OTHER DAMAGES WILL BE ALLOWED, AND THERE ARE NO OTHER EXPRESS WARRANTIES EXCEPT THOSE EX-PRESSLY STIPULATED HEREIN.
SOME STATES DO NOT ALLOW LIMITA-

TIONS ON HOW LONG AN IMPLIED WAR-RANTY LASTS OR THE EXCLUSION OR LIMITATIONS OF INCIDENTAL OR CONSE-QUENTIAL DAMAGES, SO THE ABOVE LIMITATIONS OR EXCLUSION MAY NOT APPLY TO YOU.

ELECTROLUX HOME PRODUCTS NORTH AMERICA'S policy is to continuously improve its products. Therefore, ELECTROLUX HOME PRODUCTS NORTH AMERICA reserves the right to change, modify, or discontinue models designs, specifications, and accessories of all products at any time without notice or obligation to any purchaser.

U.S. EPA EMISSION CONTROL WARRANTY STATEMENT

YOUR WARRANTY RIGHTS AND OBLIGA-**TIONS:** The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency and POULAN/WEED EATER, DIVI-SION OF WCI OUTDOOR PRODUCTS are pleased to explain the emissions control system warranty on your lawn and garden equipment engine. All new utility and lawn and garden equipment engines must be designed, built, and equipped to meet the stringent anti-smog stan-dards. POULAN/WEED EATER must warrant the emission control system on your lawn and garden equipment engine for the periods of time listed below provided there has been no abuse. neglect, or improper maintenance of your lawn and garden equipment engine. Your emission control system includes parts such as the carburetor and the ignition system. Where a war-rantable condition exits, POULAN/WEED EAT-ER will repair your lawn and garden equipment engine at no cost to you. Expenses covered under warranty include diagnosis, parts and labor. MANUFACTURER'S WARRANTY COVER-AGE: If any emissions related part on your engine (as listed under Emissions Control Warranty Parts List) is defective or a defect in the materials or workmanship of the engine causes the failure of such an emission related part, the part will be repaired or replaced by POULAN/ WEED EATER. OWNER'S WARRANTY RE-SPONSIBILITIES: As the lawn and garden equipment engine owner, you are responsible for the performance of the required maintenance listed in your instruction manual. POU-LAN/WEED EATER recommends that you retain all receipts covering maintenance on your lawn and garden equipment engine, but POU-LAN/WEED EATER cannot deny warranty solely for the lack of receipts or for your failure to ensure the performance of all scheduled maintenance. As the lawn and garden equipment engine owner, you should be aware that POU-LAN/WEED EATER may deny you warranty coverage if your lawn and garden equipment engine or a part of it has failed due to abuse, neglect, improper maintenance, unapproved modifications, or the use of parts not made or approved by the original equipment manufacturer. You are responsible for presenting your lawn and garden equipment engine to a POULAN/ WEED EATER authorized repair center as soon as a problem exists. Warranty repairs should be completed in a reasonable amount of time, not to exceed 30 days. If you have any questions regarding your warranty rights and responsibilities, you should contact your nearest authorized service center or call POULAN/

WEED EATER at 1-800-554-6723. WAR-RANTY COMMENCEMENT DATE: The warranty period begins on the date the lawn and garden equipment engine is purchased. **LENGTH OF COVERAGE**: This warranty shall be for a period of two years from the initial date of purchase. WHAT IS COVERED: REPAIR OR REPLACEMENT OF PARTS. Repair or replacement of any warranted part will be performed at no charge to the owner at an approved POULAN/WEED EATER servicing center. If you have any questions regarding your warranty rights and responsibilities, you should contact your nearest authorized service center or call POULAN/WEED EATER at 1-800-554-6723 **WARRANTY PERIOD**: Any warranted part which is not scheduled for replacement as required maintenance, or which is scheduled only for regular inspection to the effect of "repair or replace as necessary" shall be warranted for 2 years. Any warranted part which is scheduled for replacement as required maintenance shall be warranted for the period of time up to the first scheduled replacement point for that part. **DIAGNOSIS:** The owner shall not be charged for diagnostic labor which leads to the determination that a warranted part is defective if the diagnostic work is performed at an approved POULAN/WEED EATER servicing center. **CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES:** POU-LAN/WEED EATER may be liable for damages to other engine components caused by the failure of a warranted part still under warranty. WHAT IS NOT COVERED: All failures caused by abuse, neglect, or improper maintenance are covered. ADD-ON OR MODIFIED PARTS: The use of add-on or modified parts can be grounds for disallowing a warranty claim. POULAN/WEED EATER is not liable to cover failures of warranted parts caused by the use of add-on or modified parts. HOW TO FILE A CLAIM: If you have any questions regarding your warranty rights and responsibilities, you should contact your nearest authorized service center or call POULAN/WEED EATER at 1-800-554-6723. WHERE TO GET WAR-RANTY SERVICE: Warranty services or repairs shall be provided at all POULAN/WEED EATER service centers. call: 1-800-554-6723
MAINTENANCE, REPLACEMENT AND RE-PAIR OF EMISSION RELATED PARTS: Any POULAN/WEED EATER approved replacement part used in the performance of any warranty maintenance or repair on emission related parts will be provided without charge to the owner if the part is under warranty. EMISSION CONTROL WARRANTY PARTS LIST: Carburetor, Ignition System: Spark Plug (covered up to maintenance schedule), Ignition Module. MAINTENANCE STATEMENT: The owner is responsible for the performance of all required maintenance as defined in the instruction manu-