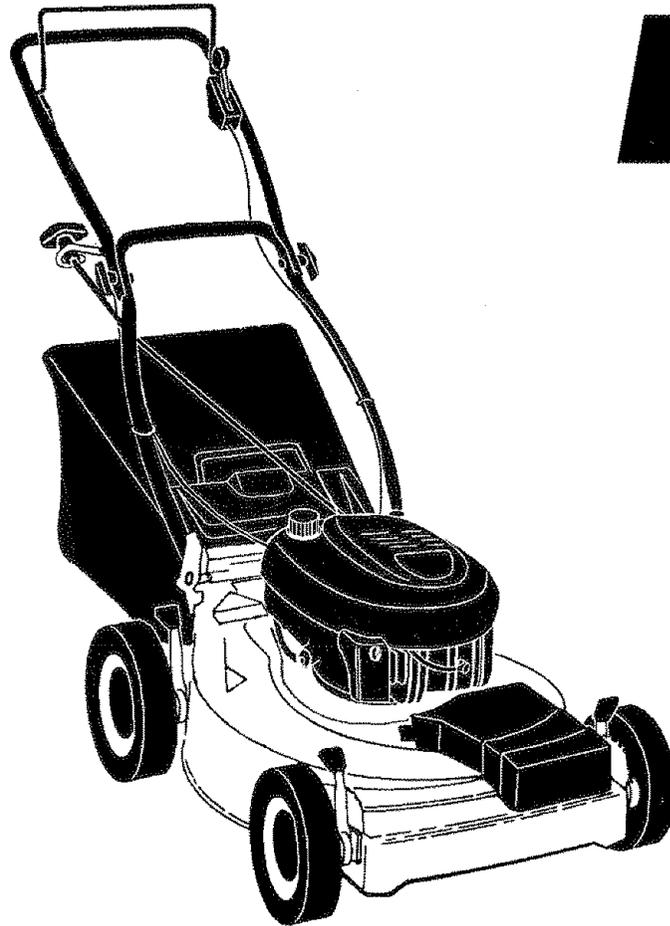


SEARS

CRAFTSMAN[®]

MODEL NUMBER 917.377301 OWNER'S MANUAL

EZ³



- **Assembly**
- **Operation**
- **Customer Responsibilities**
- **Service**
- **Adjustments**
- **Repair Parts**

**Caution:
Read and Follow
all Safety Rules
and Instructions
Before Operating
This Equipment**

159798 REV.1 04.01.97 VBL

Printed in U.S.A.

Sears, Roebuck and Co., Hoffman Estates, IL 60179 U.S.A.



SAFETY RULES



Safe Operation Practices for Walk-Behind Mowers

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. SAFETY STANDARDS REQUIRE OPERATOR PRESENCE CONTROLS TO MINIMIZE THE RISK OF INJURY. YOUR UNIT IS EQUIPPED WITH SUCH CONTROLS. DO NOT ATTEMPT TO DEFEAT THE FUNCTION OF THE OPERATOR PRESENCE CONTROLS UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.

TRAINING:

- Read this operator's manual carefully. Become familiar with the controls and know how to operate your mower properly. Learn how to quickly stop mower.
- Do not allow children to use your mower. Never allow adults to use mower without proper instructions.
- Keep the area of operation clear of all persons, especially small children and pets.
- Use mower only as the manufacturer intended and as described in this manual.
- Do not operate mower if it has been dropped or damaged in any manner. Always have damage repaired before using your mower.
- Do not use accessory attachments that are not recommended by the manufacturer. Use of such attachments may be hazardous.
- The blade turns when the engine is running.

PREPARATION:

- Always thoroughly check the area to be mowed and clear it of all stones, sticks, wires, bones, and other foreign objects. These objects will be thrown by the blade and can cause severe injury.
- Always wear safety glasses or eye shields when starting and while using your mower.
- Dress properly. Do not operate mower when barefoot or wearing open sandals. Wear only solid shoes with good traction when mowing.
- Check fuel tank before starting engine. Do not fill gas tank indoors, when the engine is running or when the engine is hot. Allow the engine to cool for several minutes before filling the gas tank. Clean off any spilled gasoline before starting the engine.
- Always make wheel height adjustments before starting your mower. Never attempt to do this while the engine is running.
- Mow only in daylight or good artificial light.

OPERATION:

- Keep your eyes and mind on your mower and the area being cut. Do not let other interests distract you.
- Do not mow wet or slippery grass. Never run while operating your mower. Always be sure of your footing - keep a firm hold on the handles and walk.
- Do not put hands or feet near or under rotating parts. Keep clear of the discharge opening at all times.
- Always stop the engine whenever you leave or are not using your mower, or before crossing driveways, walks, roads, and any gravel-covered areas.
- Never direct discharge of material toward bystanders nor allow anyone near the mower while you are operating it.
- Before cleaning, inspecting, or repairing your mower, stop the engine and make absolutely sure the blade and all moving parts have stopped. Then disconnect the spark plug wire and keep it away from the spark plug to prevent accidental starting.

- Do not continue to run your mower if you hit a foreign object. Follow the procedure outlined above, then repair any damage before restarting and operating your mower.
- Do not change the governor settings or overspeed the engine. Engine damage or personal injury may result.
- Do not operate your mower if it vibrates abnormally. Excessive vibration is an indication of damage; stop the engine safely check for the cause of vibration and repair as required.
- Do not run the engine indoors. Exhaust fumes are dangerous.
- Never cut grass by pulling the mower towards you. Mow across the face of slopes, never up and down or you might lose your footing. Do not mow excessively steep slopes. Use caution when operating the mower on uneven terrain or when changing directions - maintain good footing.
- Never operate your mower without proper guards, plates, grass catcher or other safety devices in place.

MAINTENANCE AND STORAGE:

- Check the blade and the engine mounting bolts often to be sure they are tightened properly.
- Check all bolts, nuts and screws at frequent intervals for proper tightness to be sure mower is in safe working condition.
- Keep all safety devices in place and working.
- To reduce fire hazard, keep the engine free of grass, leaves or excessive grease and oil.
- Check grass catcher often for deterioration and wear and replace worn bags. Use only replacement bags that are recommended by and comply with specifications of the manufacturer of your mower.
- Always keep a sharp blade on your mower.
- Allow engine to cool before storing in any enclosure.
- Never store mower with fuel in the tank inside a building where fumes may reach an open flame or an ignition source such as a hot water heater, space heater, clothes dryer, etc.



Look for this symbol to point out important safety precautions. It means CAUTION!!! BECOME ALERT!!! YOUR SAFETY IS INVOLVED.



CAUTION: Always disconnect spark plug wire and place wire where it cannot contact spark plug in order to prevent accidental starting when setting up, transporting, adjusting or making repairs.

WARNING

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

CONGRATULATIONS on your purchase of a Sears Lawn Mower. It has been designed, engineered and manufactured to give you the best possible dependability and performance.

Should you experience any problem you cannot easily remedy, please contact your nearest Sears Authorized Service Center/Department. We have competent, well-trained technicians and the proper tools to service or repair this lawn mower.

Please read and retain this manual. The instructions will enable you to assemble and maintain your lawn mower properly. Always observe the "SAFETY RULES".

MODEL NUMBER	917.377301
SERIAL NUMBER	_____
DATE OF PURCHASE	_____
THE MODEL AND SERIAL NUMBERS WILL BE FOUND ON A DECAL ATTACHED TO THE REAR OF THE LAWN MOWER HOUSING	
YOU SHOULD RECORD BOTH SERIAL NUMBER AND DATE OF PURCHASE AND KEEP IN A SAFE PLACE FOR FUTURE REFERENCE.	

PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS

HORSEPOWER:	6.6
DISPLACEMENT:	12.56 CU. IN.
GASOLINE CAPACITY AND TYPE:	1.5 QUARTS UNLEADED REGULAR ONLY
OIL TYPE (API-SF/SG):	SAE 30 (ABOVE 32°F) SAE 5W-30 (below 32°F)
OIL CAPACITY:	27 OZS.
SPARK PLUG: (GAP: .030")	CHAMPION RJ19LM
VALVE CLEARANCE:	INTAKE: .008" EXHAUST: .008"
SOLID STATE IGNITION AIR GAP:	.0125 IN.
BLADE BOLT TORQUE:	35-40 FT. LBS.

MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT

A Sears Maintenance Agreement is available on this product. Contact your nearest Sears store for details.

CUSTOMER RESPONSIBILITIES

- Read and observe the safety rules.
- Follow a regular schedule in maintaining, caring for and using your lawn mower.
- Follow the instructions under "Customer Responsibilities" and "Storage" sections of this owner's manual.

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

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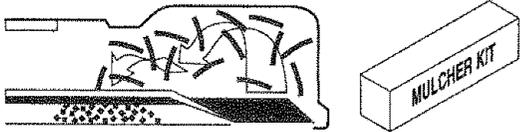
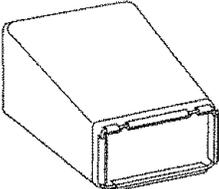
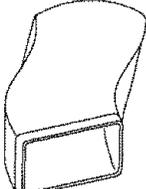
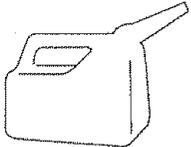
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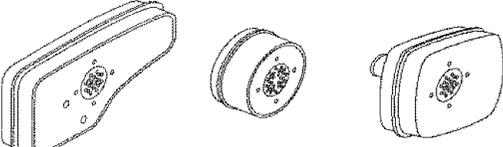
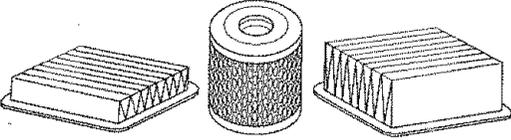
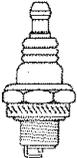
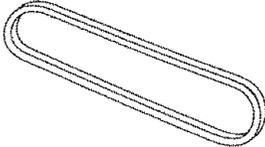
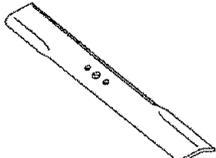
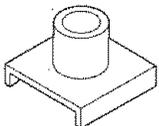
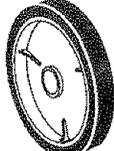
LAWN MOWER ACCESSORIES

These accessories were available when this lawn mower was produced. 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

 <p>CLIPPING DEFLECTOR FOR REAR DISCHARGE LAWN MOWERS</p>	 <p>MULCHER KITS</p>	 <p>STABILIZER</p>
 <p>GRASS CATCHERS FOR REAR DISCHARGE LAWN MOWERS</p>	 <p>GRASS CATCHERS FOR SIDE DISCHARGE LAWN MOWERS</p>	 <p>GAS CANS</p>

LAWN MOWER MAINTENANCE

 <p>MUFFLERS</p>		 <p>AIR FILTERS</p>		 <p>SPARK PLUGS</p>
 <p>BELTS</p>	 <p>BLADES</p>	 <p>BLADE ADAPTERS</p>	 <p>WHEELS</p>	 <p>ENGINE OIL</p>

ASSEMBLY

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

- Remove loose parts included with mower.
- 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 check carton thoroughly for additional loose parts.

HOW TO SET UP YOUR LAWN MOWER TO UNFOLD HANDLE (See Fig. 1)

IMPORTANT: UNFOLD HANDLES CAREFULLY SO AS NOT TO PINCH OR DAMAGE CONTROL CABLES.

- Raise handles until lower handle section locks into place in mowing position.
- 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 Adjustment section of this manual.

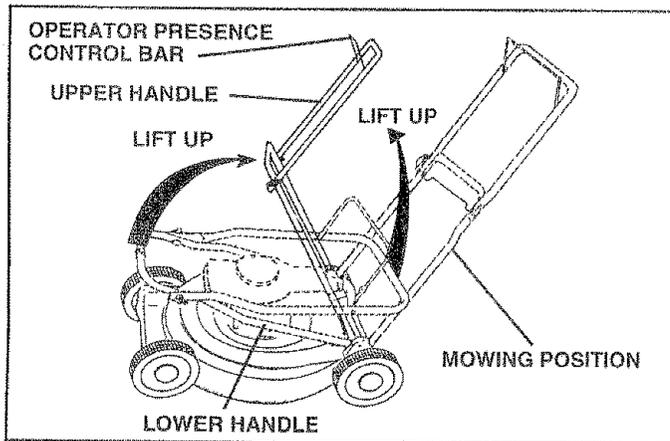


FIG. 1

TO INSTALL ATTACHMENTS (See Fig. 2)

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.

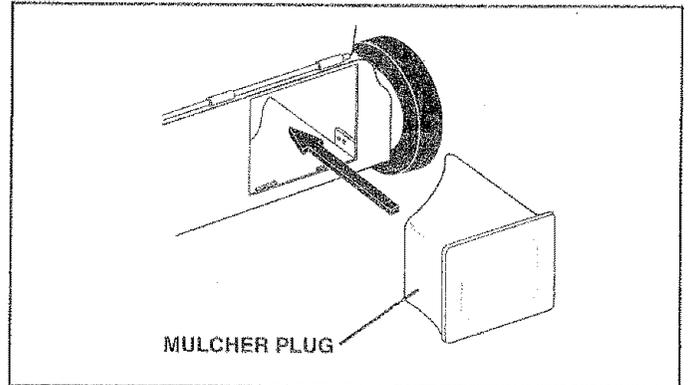


FIG. 2



CAUTION: 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.

ASSEMBLY

TO ASSEMBLE AND ATTACH GRASS CATCHER (See Figs. 3A thru 4)

- Insert leg of tubular frame through front opening of grass catcher and thread frame into sewn hem of bag.

NOTE: Keep bag hem gathered on the straight leg of the tubular frame.

- When frame comes out the other end of sewn hem, immediately work the end of frame down inside the bag as shown in inset.
- Slide sewn hem evenly around the tubular frame until both ends of frame are exposed out of the front opening.
- Assemble lower frame to tubular frame as shown. Be sure handle is outside of bag and frames are fully seated as shown in inset.
- Slip vinyl bindings over frame.

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

- Close the flip lid. Flip lid must be closed while operating lawn mower.
- Lift the rear door on the mower housing and place the grass catcher frame onto the formed tabs on the rear door hinge bracket.
- The grass catcher is secured to the lawn mower housing when the rear door is lowered onto the grass catcher frame.

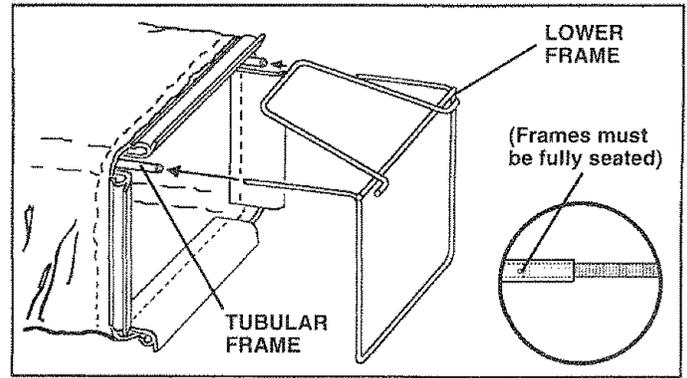


FIG. 3B

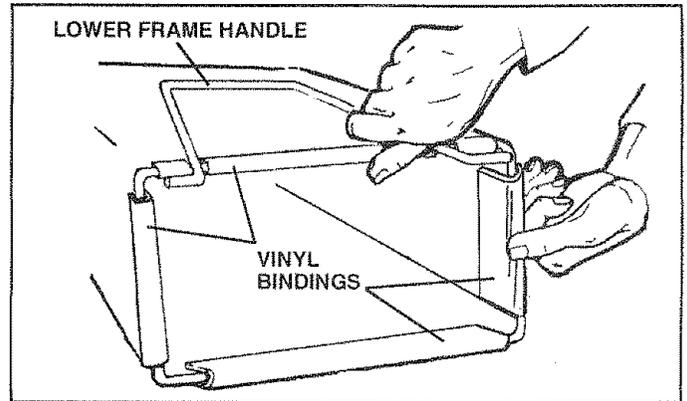


FIG. 3C

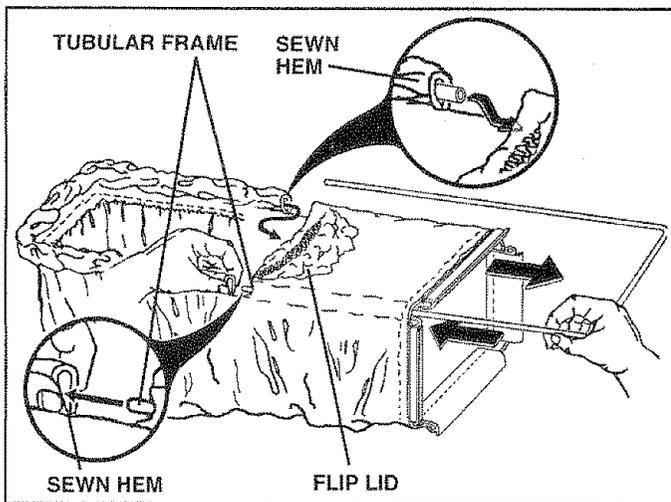
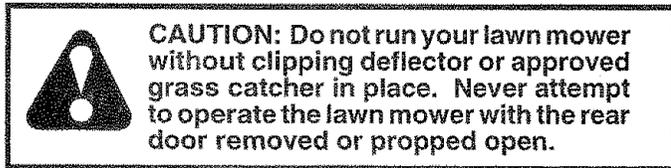


FIG. 3A

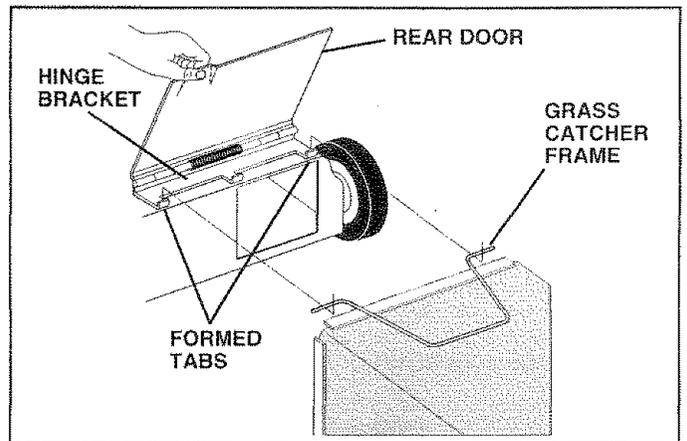


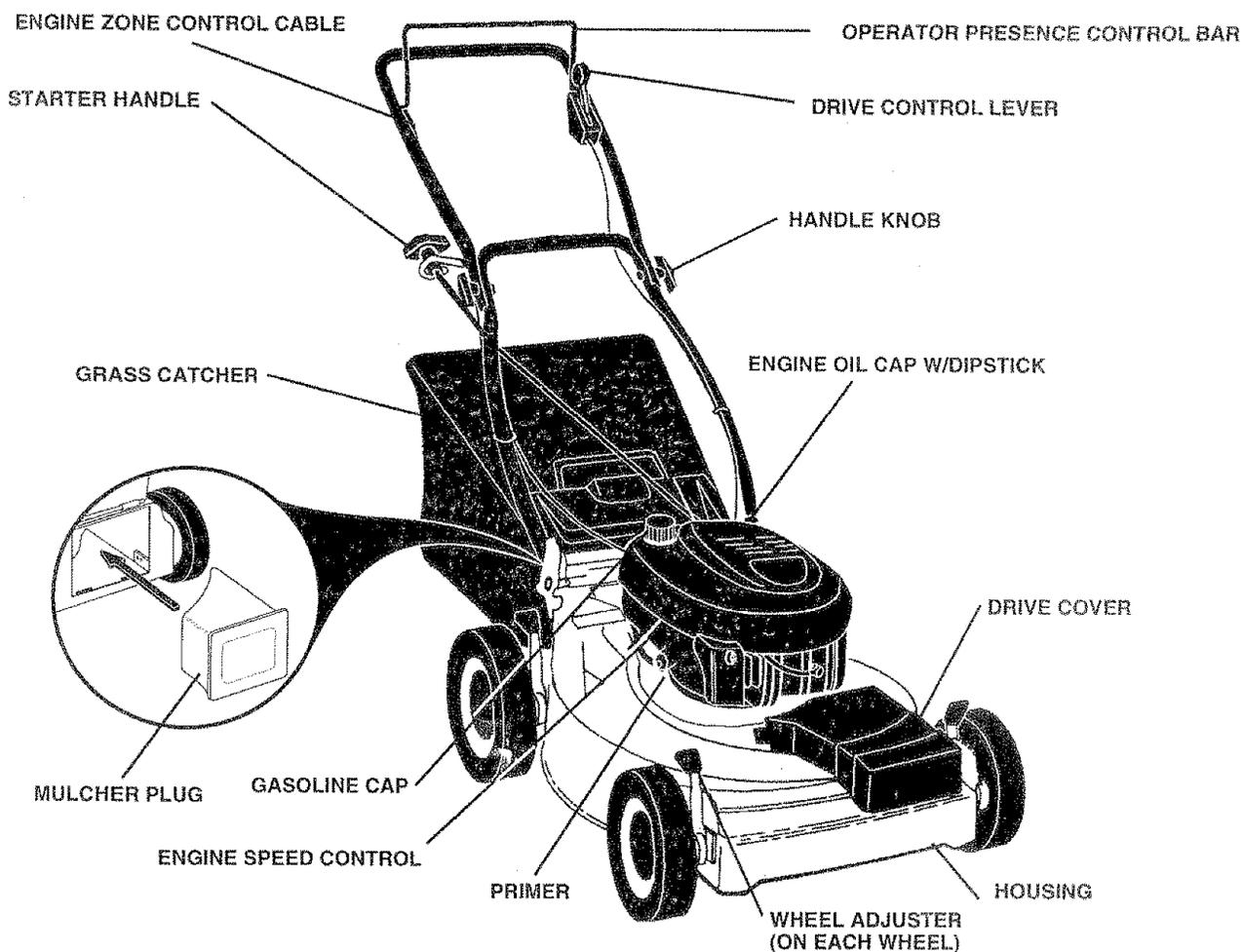
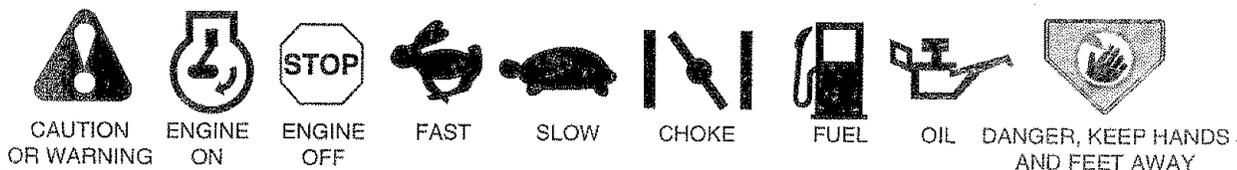
FIG. 4

OPERATION

KNOW YOUR 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.

These symbols may appear on your lawn mower or in literature supplied with the product. Learn and understand their meaning.



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 - 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.

ENGINE SPEED CONTROL - located on the side of the engine which allows you to select either fast (🌀) or slow (🐢) engine speed.

MULCHER PLUG - must be removed to convert to bagging or discharging operation.

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 the spectacles or standard safety glasses.

HOW TO USE YOUR LAWN MOWER



CAUTION: Do not run your lawn mower without mulcher plate in place and door closed or without an approved clipping deflector or grasscatcher in place. Never attempt to operate the lawn mower with the rear door removed or propped open.

ENGINE SPEED (See Fig. 5)

The engine speed is controlled by a lever located on the side of the engine. High (↖) position is for starting the engine, normal cutting, and better grass bagging. Low (↙) position is for light cutting, trimming and fuel economy.

ENGINE ZONE CONTROL



CAUTION: 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.

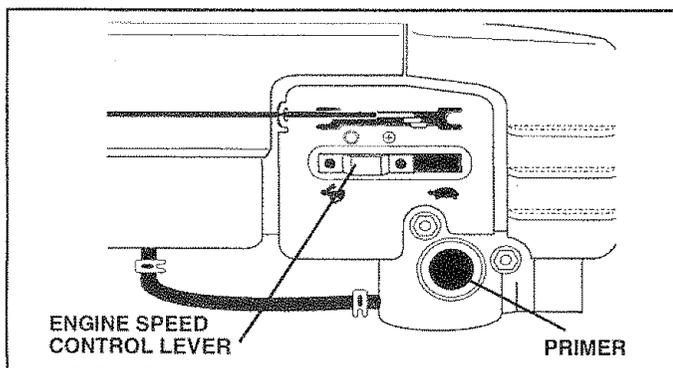


FIG. 5

TO ADJUST CUTTING HEIGHT (See Fig. 6)

- Raise wheels for low cut and lower wheels for high cut.
- Wheels are set in low cut for shipping. 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.

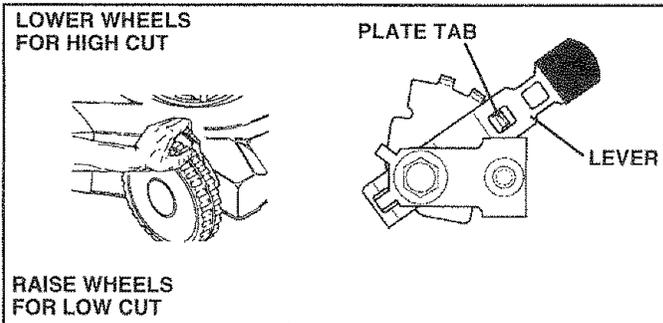


FIG. 6

TO EMPTY GRASS CATCHER (See Fig. 7)

- To remove grass catcher, release operator presence control bar to stop engine.
- Lift up rear door and remove the grass catcher by the handle.
- Do not drag the bag when emptying; it will cause unnecessary wear.

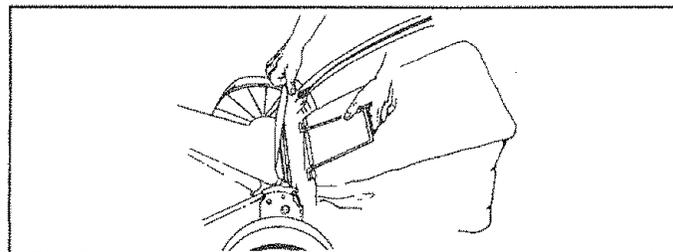


FIG. 7

DRIVE CONTROL (See Fig. 8)

- 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 release 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 to 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.

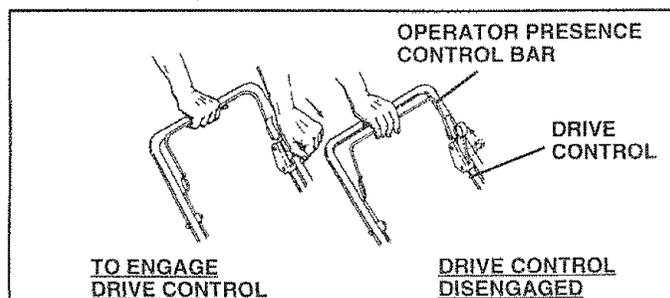


FIG. 8

OPERATION

BEFORE STARTING ENGINE

OIL (See Fig. 9)

Your lawn mower is shipped without oil in the engine.

- Be sure mower is level and area around oil fill is clean.
- Remove engine oil cap w/dipstick and fill to the full line on the dipstick.
- Use 27 ozs. of oil. For type and grade of oil to use, see "ENGINE" in Customer Responsibilities section of this manual.
- Pour oil slowly. Do not over fill.
- Check oil level before each use. Add oil if needed. Fill to full line on dipstick.
- To read proper level, tighten engine oil cap each time.
- Reinstall engine oil cap and tighten.
- 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.

GAS (See Fig. 9)

- 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.

IMPORTANT: WHEN OPERATING IN TEMPERATURES BELOW 32°F(0°C), USE FRESH, CLEAN WINTER GRADE GASOLINE TO HELP INSURE GOOD COLD WEATHER STARTING.

WARNING: 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 fuel tank, start the engine and let it run until 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 fuel tank or permanent damage may occur.

TO START ENGINE

- To start a cold engine, push primer five (5) 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.
- Move engine speed control lever to fast (🔥) position.
- 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, 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.

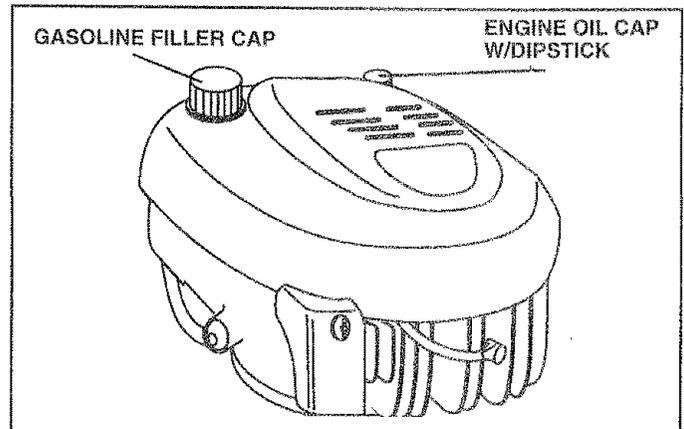


FIG. 9

MOWING TIPS

- 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.
- For extremely heavy cutting, reduce the width of cut and raise the rear of the lawn mower housing one (1) wheel adjuster setting higher than the front for better discharge of grass.
- 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 grass clippings is left on the right side of a rear discharge lawn mower, mow in a clockwise direction with a small overlap to collect the clippings on the next pass.
- Keep top of engine around starter clear and clean of grass clippings and chaff. This will help engine air flow and extend engine life.
- 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 catchers off with water and let dry before using.

OPERATION

MULCHING MOWING TIPS

IMPORTANT: FOR BEST PERFORMANCE, KEEP MOWER HOUSING FREE OF BUILT-UP GRASS AND TRASH. SEE "CLEANING" IN CUSTOMER RESPONSIBILITIES 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 (See Fig. 10). 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.

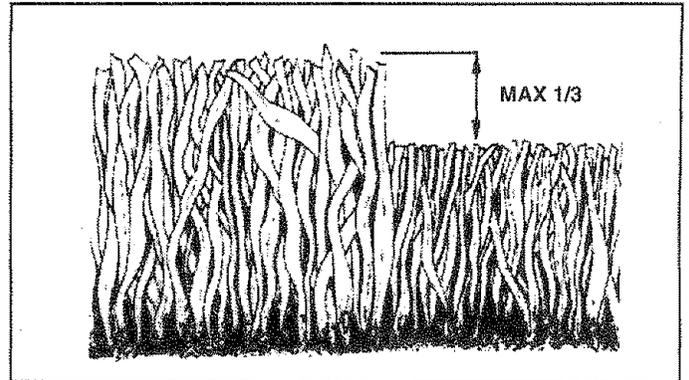


FIG. 10

CUSTOMER RESPONSIBILITIES

LAWN MOWER

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 (See Fig. 11)

- Disconnect spark plug wire from spark plug and place wire where it cannot come in contact with spark plug.
- 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.
- Protect your hands with gloves and/or wrap blade with heavy cloth.
- Remove blade bolt by turning counter-clockwise. Use a 9/16" box or open-end wrench.
- 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.

TO REPLACE BLADE (See Fig. 11)

- Position the blade adapter on the engine crankshaft. Be sure key in adapter and crankshaft keyway are aligned.
- Position blade on the blade adapter aligning the two (2) holes in the blade with the raised lugs on the adapter.
- Be sure the trailing edge of blade (opposite sharp edge) is up toward the engine.
- Install the blade bolt with the lock washer and hardened washer into blade adapter and crankshaft.
- 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.

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

TO SHARPEN BLADE

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.

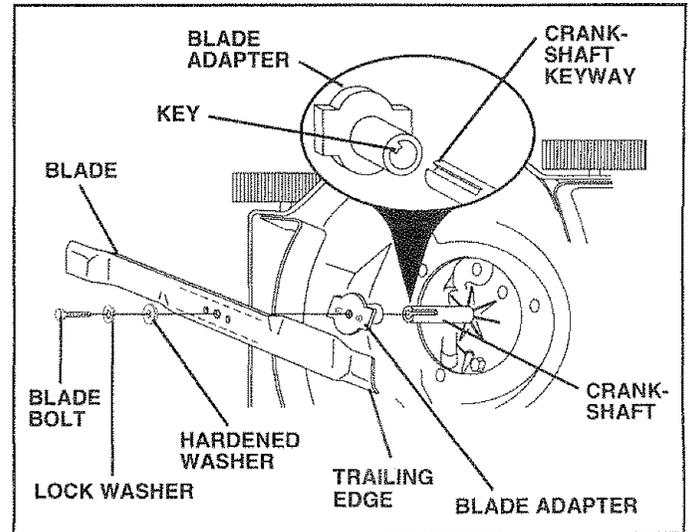


FIG. 11

GRASS CATCHER

(If purchased as an accessory)

- 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.

- Remove hubcaps, hairpin cotters and washers.
- Remove wheels from wheel adjusters.
- Remove any trash or grass cuttings from inside the dust cover, pinion and/or drive wheel gear teeth.
- Put wheels back in place.
- If after cleaning, the drive wheels do not turn freely, contact your nearest authorized service center.

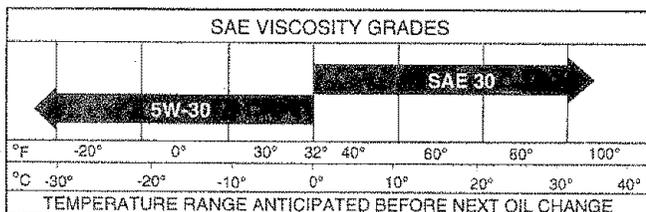
GEAR CASE

- 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. 750355. Do not substitute.

CUSTOMER RESPONSIBILITIES

ENGINE LUBRICATION

Use only high quality detergent oil rated with API service classification SF or SG. 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 each season. You may need to change the oil more often under dusty, dirty conditions.

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 (See Fig. 12)

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.
- Remove engine oil cap; lay aside on a clean surface.
- Tip lawn mower on its side 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. Fill only to the "FULL" line on the dipstick. DO NOT OVER FILL.
- Replace engine oil cap.
- Reconnect spark plug wire to spark plug.

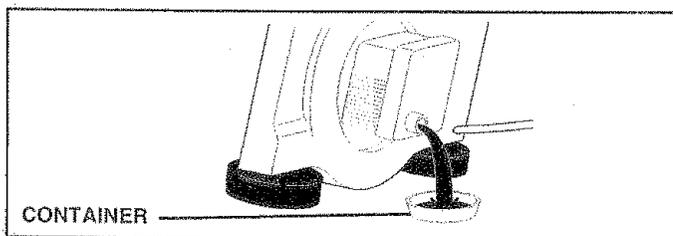


FIG. 12

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 (See Fig. 13)

- Loosen cover screw.
- Swing cover down and remove from hinge.
- Pull paper filter out of air cleaner body.
- Clean air cleaner cover and body.
- Install a new paper filter.
- Reinstall cover to air cleaner body. Be sure hinge is assembled properly.
- Swing cover up and tighten cover screw. (Do not overtighten).

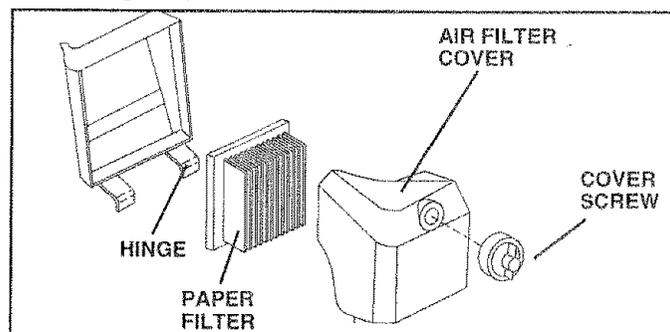


FIG. 13

MUFFLER

Inspect and replace corroded muffler as it could create a fire hazard and/or damage.

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.



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

- Turn lawn mower on its side. Make sure air filter and carburetor are up. 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



CAUTION: BEFORE PERFORMING ANY SERVICE OR ADJUSTMENTS:

- Release control bar.
- Make sure the blade and all moving parts have completely stopped.
- 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 lawn mower, is provided to minimize the possibility that objects will be thrown out the rear of the lawn mower into the operator's mowing position. If the rear deflector becomes damaged, it should be replaced.

TO REMOVE/REPLACE DRIVE BELT

(See Fig. 14)

- Remove drive cover. Remove belt by pushing down on gear case pulley.
- Turn lawn mower on its side with carburetor and fuel cap up.
- Remove blade.
- Remove debris shield.
- Remove belt from engine pulley on crankshaft.
- Install new belt by reversing above steps.
- Always use factory approved belt to assure fit and long life.

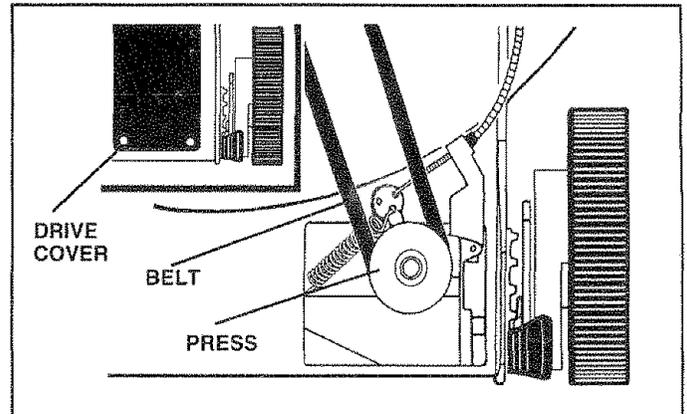


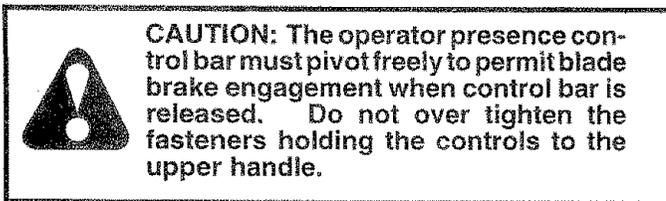
FIG. 14

SERVICE AND ADJUSTMENTS

TO ADJUST HANDLE (See Figs. 15 Thru 17)

Your lawn mower handle can be raised or lowered for your mowing comfort. Four (4) positions are available: high, medium high, medium low and low. Handles are shipped mounted in the medium low position.

- To change from medium low to medium high position, the upper and lower handle sections will have to be turned over (See Fig. 15B).
- Remove the controls and operator presence control bar from the upper handle.
- Remove the starter rope guide from the lower handle.
- Remove hairpin cotters.
- Disconnect the lower handle from the handle brackets (See Fig. 17).
- Turn the handle over and reassemble the hairpin cotters that have been removed.
- Reassemble the starter rope guide.
- Reassemble the controls and the operator presence control bar to the upper handle.



- To change from medium low to high position only the upper handle section will have to be turned over (See Fig. 16A).
- To change from medium low to low position, only the lower handle section will have to be turned over (See Fig. 16B).

ENGINE

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 an authorized 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 an authorized service center for repair and/or adjustment.

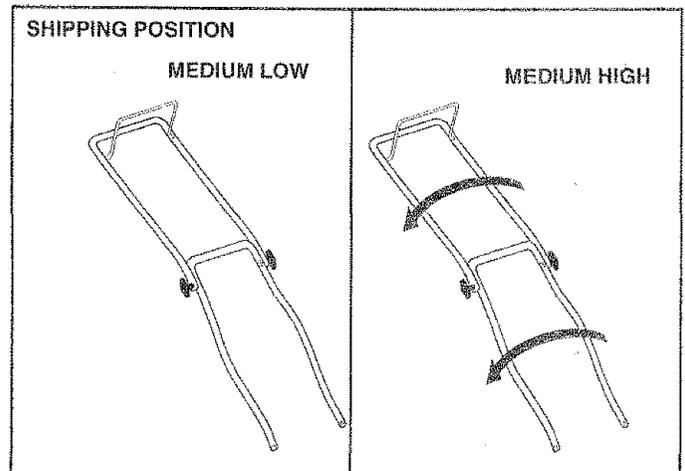


FIG. 15A

FIG. 15B

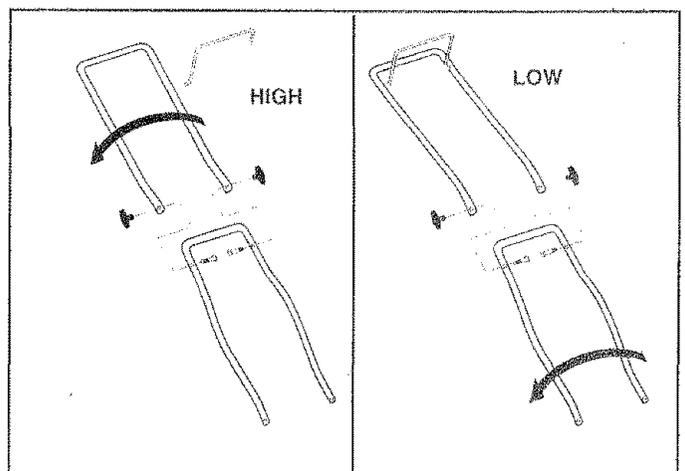


FIG. 16A

FIG. 16B

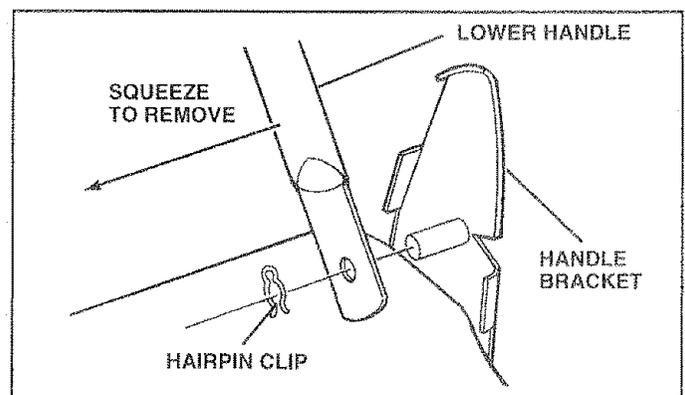


FIG. 17

STORAGE

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.

- Clean entire lawn mower (See "CLEANING" in the Customer Responsibilities section of this manual).
- Lubricate as shown in the Customer Responsibilities 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 (See Fig. 18)

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.

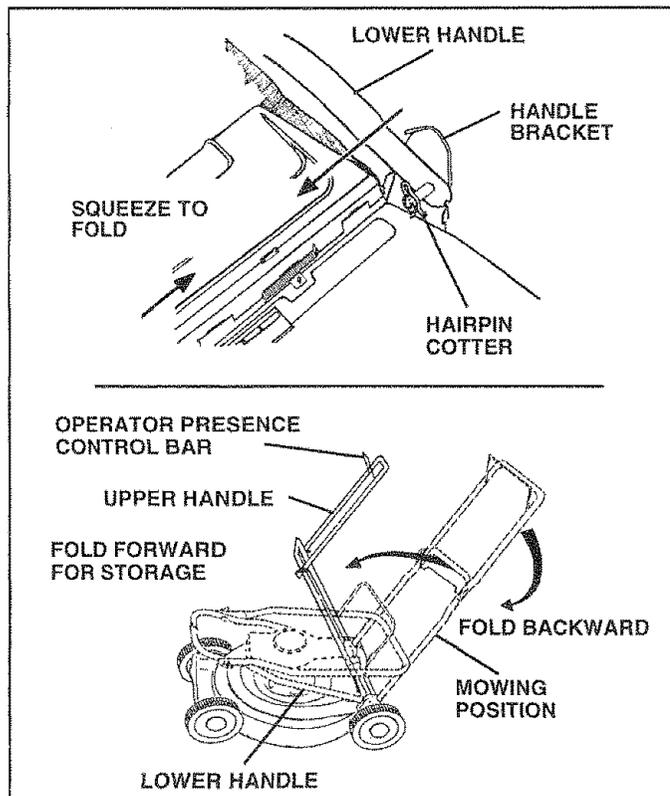


FIG. 18

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.

- Drain the fuel tank.
- 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 Customer Responsibilities section of this manual).

CYLINDER

- 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.
- 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 ENGINE AND EXHAUST ARE STILL WARM.



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.

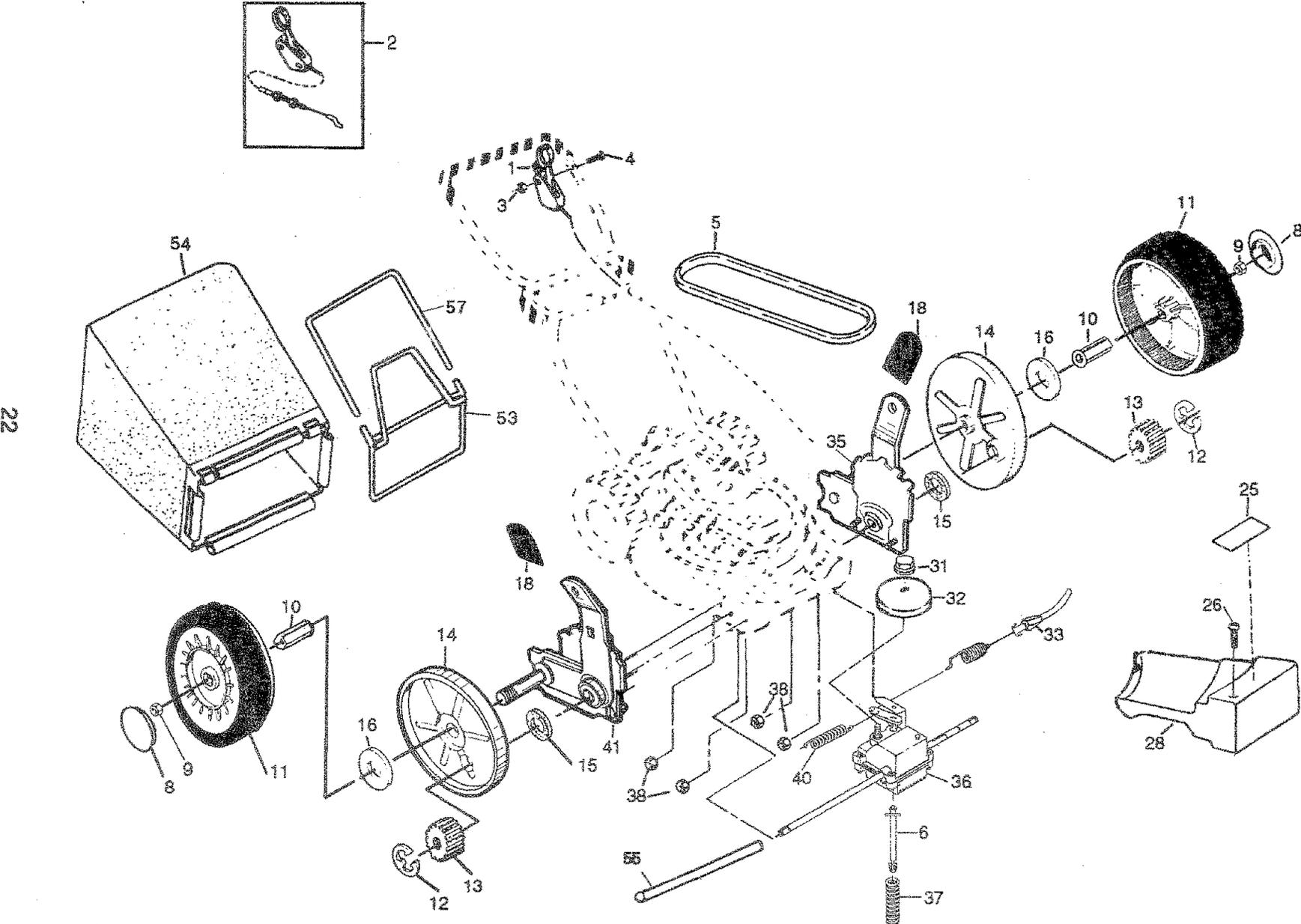
SERVICE NOTES

TROUBLESHOOTING POINTS

PROBLEM	CAUSE	CORRECTION
Does not start	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dirty air filter. 2. Out of fuel. 3. Stale fuel. 4. Water in fuel. 5. Spark plug wire is disconnected. 6. Bad spark plug. 7. Loose blade or broken blade adapter. 8. Control bar in released position 9. Control bar defective 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clean/replace air filter. 2. Fill fuel tank. 3. Drain tank and refill with fresh clean fuel. 4. Drain fuel tank and carburetor and refill tank with fresh gasoline. 5. Connect wire to plug. 6. Replace spark plug. 7. Tighten blade bolt or replace blade adapter. 8. Depress control bar to handle. 9. Replace control bar.
Loss of power	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rear of lawn mower housing/blade dragging in heavy grass. 2. Cutting too much grass. 3. Dirty air filter. 4. Buildup of grass, leaves and trash under mower. 5. Too much oil in engine. 6. Walking speed too fast. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Set in "Higher Cut" position. 2. Set in "Higher Cut" position. 3. Clean/replace air filter. 4. Clean underside of mower housing. 5. Check oil level. 6. Cut at slower walking speed.
Poor cut - uneven	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Worn, bent or loose blade. 2. Wheel heights uneven. 3. Low engine speed. 4. Buildup of grass, leaves, and trash under mower. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Replace blade. Tighten blade bolt. 2. Set all wheels at same height. 3. Set engine speed control in fast position. 4. Clean underside of mower housing.
Excessive vibration	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Worn, bent or loose blade. 2. Bent engine crankshaft. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Replace blade. Tighten blade bolt. 2. Contact authorized service center/department.
Starter rope hard to pull	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Engine flywheel brake is on when control bar is released. 2. Bent engine crankshaft 3. Blade adapter broken. 4. Blade dragging in grass. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Depress control bar to upper handle before pulling starter rope. 2. Contact authorized service center/department. 3. Replace blade adapter. 4. Move lawn mower to cut grass or to hard surface to start engine.
Loss of drive	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Drive wheels not turning with drive control engaged. 2. Belt not driving. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adjust or replace drive control cable, if broken. 2. Put belt on pulleys or replace belts if broken.
Grass catcher not filling (if so equipped)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cutting height too low. 2. Lift on blade worn off. 3. Catcher not venting air. 4. Low engine speed. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Raise cutting height. 2. Replace blade. 3. Clean grass catcher. 4. Set engine speed control in fast position.
Hard to push	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Grass is too high or wheel height is too low. 2. Rear of lawn mower housing/blade dragging in grass. 3. Grass catcher too full. 4. Handle height position not right for you. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Raise cutting height. 2. Raise rear of lawn mower housing one (1) setting higher. 3. Empty grass catcher. 4. Adjust handle height to suit.

REPAIR PARTS

ROTARY LAWN MOWER MODEL NUMBER 917.377301



REPAIR PARTS

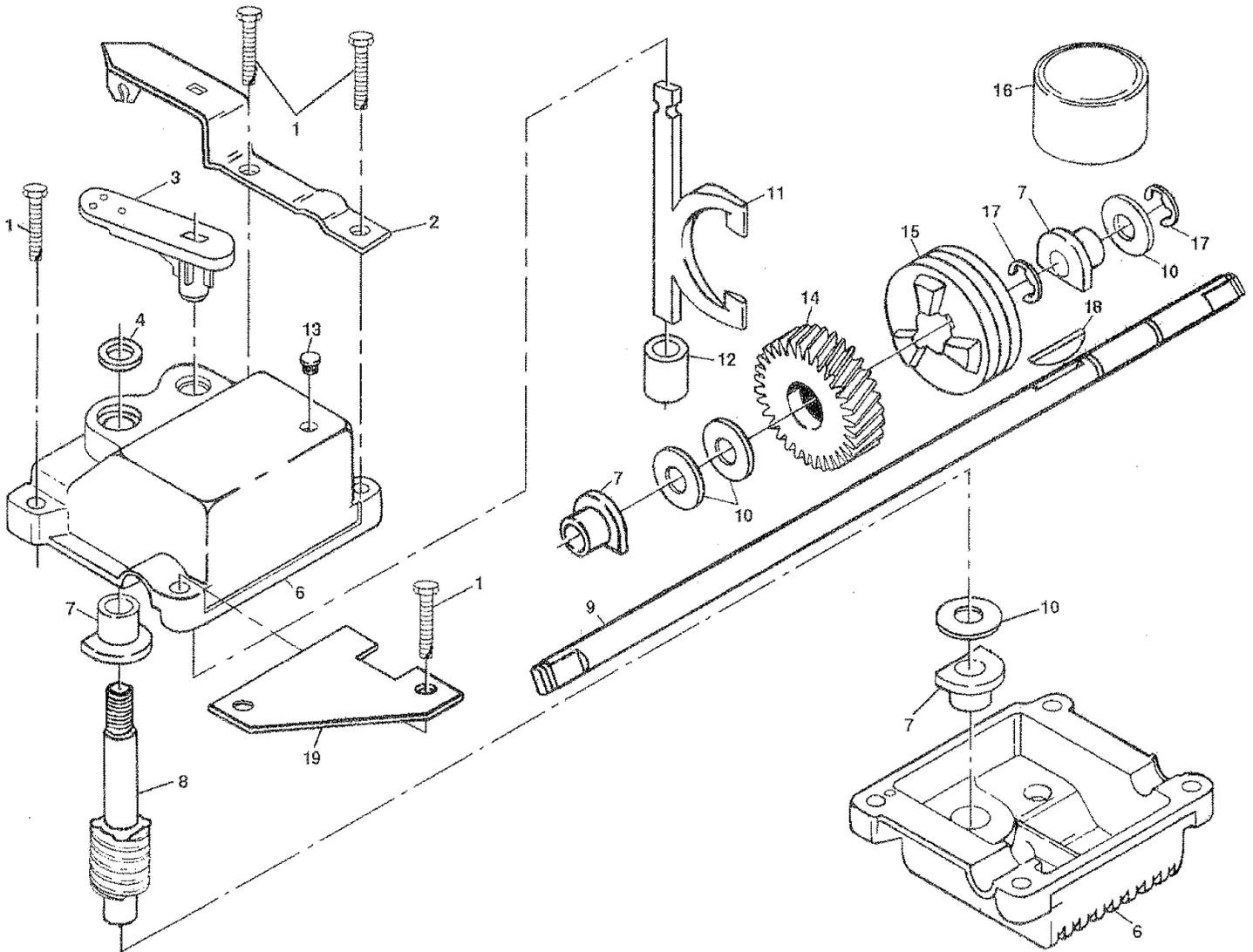
ROTARY LAWN MOWER MODEL NUMBER 917.377301

KEY NO.	PART NO.	DESCRIPTION	KEY NO.	PART NO.	DESCRIPTION
1	145755	Control Cable Assembly	25	152903	Drive Cover Decal
2	48385	Control Head Kit	26	143603	Pan Head Tapping Screw #10-24 x 2-3/4
3	63601	Locknut #10-24	28	702806	Drive Cover
4	144929	Hex Washer Head Screw 1/4-20 x 2.12	31	132010	Hex Flange Nut
5	146527	V-Belt	32	137052	Drive Pulley
6	150495	Spring Retainer	33	48386	Drive Control Cable Kit
8	150182	Hubcap	35	151521	Wheel Adjuster Assembly (Left)
9	145212	Locknut	36	702511	Gear Case Assembly
10	88446	Nylon Bushing	37	137090	Spring
11	150340	Wheel & Tire Assembly	38	STD541425	Locknut 1/4-20
12	12000058	E-Ring	40	75192	Spring
13	137054	Pinion	41	151520	Wheel Adjuster Assembly (Right)
14	88080	Dust Cover	53	144747	Frame Throat
15	88118	Felt Washer	54	154870	Grassbag Assembly
16	67725	Washer 1/2 x 1-1/2 x .134	55	86012	Driveshaft Cover
18	701037	Selector Knob	57	144748	Frame Tube

REPAIR PARTS

ROTARY LAWN MOWER - - MODEL NO. 917.377301

GEAR CASE ASSEMBLY PART NUMBER 702511

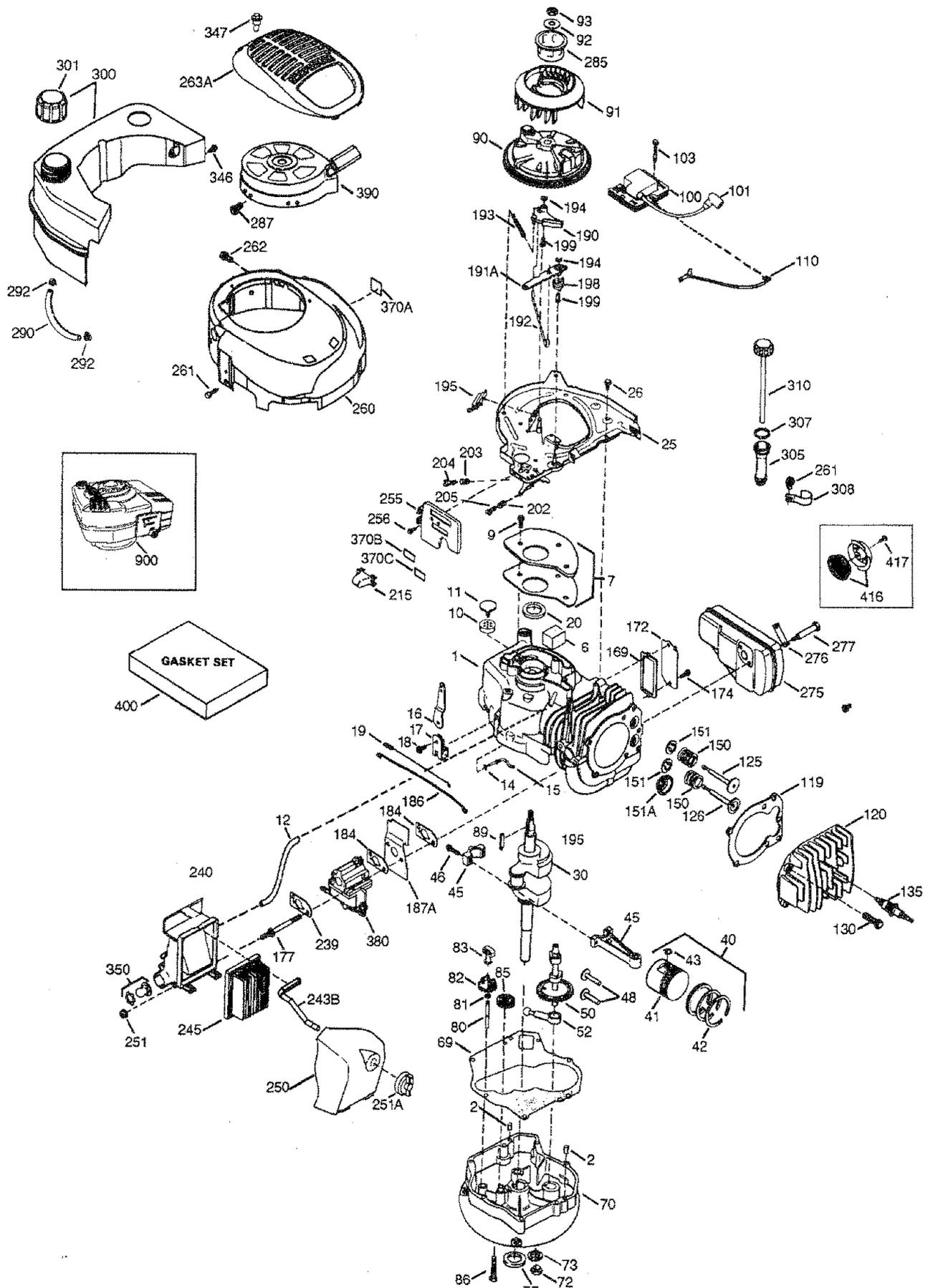


KEY NO.	PART NO.	DESCRIPTION
1	17490416	Tapping Screw 1/4-20 x 1-1/4
2	137055X004	Engagement Bracket
3	137053	Shifter
4	57072	Seal
6	48373	Gear Case Halves Kit (Includes Key Nos. 4, 5, and 7)
7	77881	Bearing
8	137051	Worm Shaft
9	137074	Drive Shaft
10	57079	Hardened Washer

KEY NO.	PART NO.	DESCRIPTION
11	131484	Clutch Yoke
12	700343	Bushing
13	86447	Plug
14	137050	Helical Gear
15	750436X	Clutch Jaw
16	750369	Grease
17	12000003	E-Ring
18	850848	Hi-Pro Key
19	81585X004	Spring Bracket

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

SERVICE NOTES



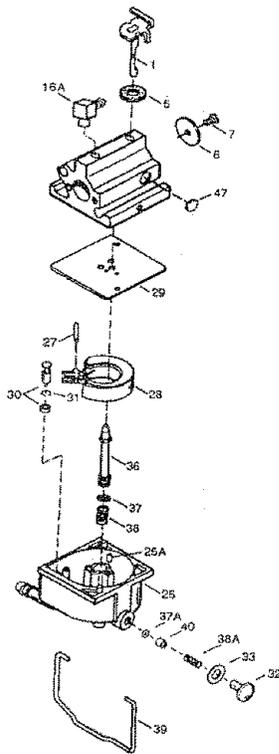
4-CYCLE ENGINE

MODEL NUMBER 143.976600

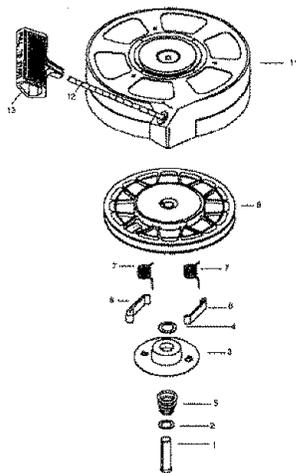
KEY PART NO. NO.	DESCRIPTION	KEY PART NO. NO.	DESCRIPTION
1 36177	Cylinder (Incl. 2,10,12,20 & 125)	184 36183	Carburetor Gasket
2 27652	Dowel Pin	186 36009	Governor Link
6 36059	Breather Element	187A 36195	Air Baffle
7 36005A	* Breather Cover & Gasket	190 36013	Brake Lever Ass'y.
9 590568	Screw, 10-24 x 3/4"	191A 36012	Brake Control Lever
10 36002	Breather Valve Body	192 36016	Brake Control Lever Link
11 36003	Check Valve	193 36015	Brake Spring
12 32447	Breather Tube	194 36014	Retaining Ring
14 28277	Flat Washer	195 610973	Terminal Ass'y.
15 36006	Governor Rod (Machined)	198 36017	Brake Control Lever Spring
16 36008	Governor Lever	199 36018	Brake Lever Bushing
17 31335	Governor Lever Clamp	202 36482	Compression Spring
18 651018	Screw, Torx T-15, 8-32 x 19/64"	203 31342	Compression Spring
19 36103	Governor Spring	204 651029	Screw, 5-40 x 7/16"
20 36010	Oil Seal	205 651030	Screw, Torx T-10, 6-32 x 17/32"
25 36186	Blower Housing Baffle Ass'y. (Incl.195)	215 36051	Control Knob
26 650802	Screw, 1/4-20 x 5/8"	239 36048	* Carburetor To Air Cleaner Gasket
30 36185	Crankshaft	240 36190	Air Cleaner Body (Incl.239 & 350)
40 36073	Piston,Pin, Ring Set (Std.)	243B 651041	Air Cleaner Stud
40 36074	Piston,Pin, Ring Set (.010 OS)	245 36046	Air Cleaner Filter
40 36075	Piston,Pin, Ring Set (.020 OS)	250 36191	Air Cleaner Cover
41 36070	Piston & Pin Ass'y.(Std.) (Incl. 43)	251 650928	Lock Nut 1/4-20
41 36071	Piston & Pin Ass'y. (.010 OS)(Incl.43)	251A 650933	Wing Nut, 1/4-20
41 36072	Piston & Pin Ass'y. (.020 OS)(Incl.43)	255 36193	Control Plate
42 36076	Ring Set (Std.)	256 650983	Screw, 8-32 x 21/64"
42 36077	Ring Set (.010 OS)	260 36188	Blower Housing
42 36078	Ring Set (.020 OS)	261 650737	Screw, 1/4-20 x 1/2"
43 20381	Piston Pin Retaining Ring	262 650929	Screw, 1/4-20 x 11/16"
45 36023A	Connecting Rod Ass'y. (Incl. 46)	263A 36192	Starter Grill
46 32610A	Connecting Rod Bolt	275 36107	Muffler
48 36030	Valve Lifter	276 36043	Locking Plate
50 36031A	Camshaft (MCR)	277 650927	Screw, 5/6-18 x 2-11/32"
52 29914	Oil Pump Ass'y.	285 34449A	Starter Cup
69 36032A	* Mounting Flange Gasket	287 650926	Screw, 8-32 x 21/64"
70 36194	Mounting Flange (Incl. 72 thru 85)	290 34357	Fuel Line
72 30572	Oil Drain Plug (Incl. 73)	292 26460	Fuel Line Clamp
73 28833	Drain Plug Gasket	300 36189	Fuel Tank (Incl. 301)
75 36010	Oil Seal	301 36246	Fuel Cap
80 30574A	Governor Shaft	305 36063	Oil Fill Tube
81 30590A	Washer	307 35499	"O" Ring
82 30591	Governor Gear Ass'y. (Incl.81)	308 36040	Fill Tube Clip
83 36057	Governor Spool	310 36064	Dipstick
85 36034	Idler Gear	346A 28763	Screw, 10-32 x 35/64"
86 650924	Screw, 1/4-20 x 1-9/16"	347 650898A	Screw, 10-32 x 27/32"
89 611154	Flywheel Key	350 36045	Primer
90 611155	Flywheel	370A 36261	Lubrication Decal
91 611156	Flywheel Fan	370B 36155	Control Decal
92 650815	Belleville Washer	370C 36861	Primer Decal
93 650816	Flywheel Nut	380 632671A	Carburetor (Incl. 184,239)
100 34443A	Solid State Ignition	390 590702	Rewind Starter
101 610118	Spark Plug Cover	400 36062C	Gasket Set (Incl. Items Marked * in Notes)
103 651007	Screw, Torx T-15, 10-24 x 15/16"	416 36085	Spark Arrestor Kit (Incl. 417)(Optional)
110 36054	Ground Wire	417 650760	Screw, 8-32 x 3/8" (Optional)
119 36061	* Cylinder Head Gasket	900 —	Replacement Engine 750792B, order from 71-999
120 36187	Cylinder Head	900 —	Replacement S/B 750797, order from 71-999
125 36471	Exhaust Valve (Std.) (Incl. 151)	— —	RPM High 2900 to 3200
125 36472	Exhaust Valve (1/32" OS)	— —	RPM Low 2450 to 2750
126 29314B	Intake Valve (Std.) (Incl. 151)		
126 29315C	Intake Valve (1/32" OS)		
130 6021A	Screw, 5/16-18 x 1-1/2"		
135 35395	Resistor Spark Plug (RJ19LM)		
150 31672	Valve Spring		
151 31673	Lower Valve Spring Cap		
151A 40016	Intake Valve Seal		
169 27234A	* Valve Spring Box Gasket		
172 32755	Valve Spring Box Cover		
174 30200	Screw, 10-24 x 9/16"		
177 650925A	Carburetor Mounting Stud		

(NOTE: This engine could have been built with 590739 starter. Refer to the design of the rope pulley strength ribs for part identification. Individual starter parts do not interchange.). Incl. part #'s 27234A (1), 28833 (1), 36005A (1), 36032A (1), 36035 (1), 36048 (1), 36061 (1), 36183 (2), 696088 instruction sheet (1)

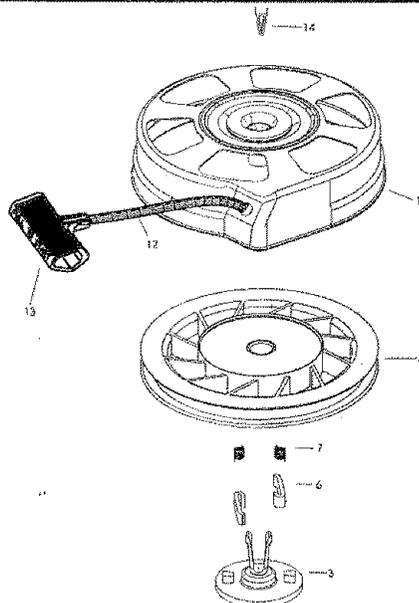
NOTE: All component dimensions given in U.S. inches
1 inch = 25.4 mm



KEY PART NO.	NO.	DESCRIPTION
—	632671A	Carburetor (Incl. 187B & 239 of Engine Parts List)
1	632539	Throttle Shaft & Lever Assembly
5	632593	Dust Seal
6	632541	Throttle Shutter
7	650506	Throttle Shutter Screw
25	632675	Float Bowl
25A	632701	Idle Restrictor
27	632544	Float Shaft
28	632543	Float
29	632548	Float Bowl to Body Gasket
30	632551	Inlet Needle, Seat & Seat Retainer (Incl. 31)
31	632637	Seat Retainer
32	632672	Bowl Drain Screw
33	632673	Bowl Drain Washer
36	632674	Main Nozzle Tube
37	632547	"O" Ring, Main Nozzle Tube
37A	632547	"O" Ring
38	632545	Spring, Main Nozzle Tube
38A	632545	Spring
39	632549	Float Bowl Retainer
40	632676	Main Fuel Jet
47	632554	Welch Plug, Idle Mixing Well



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



KEY PART NO.	NO.	DESCRIPTION
—	590739	Rewind Starter
3	590740	Retainer
6	590616	Starter Dog
7	590617	Dog Spring
8	590618A	Pulley & Rewind Spring Ass'y
11	590638	Starter Housing Ass'y (40 degree grommet)
12	590535	Starter Rope (Length 98" x 9/64" dia.)
13	590701	Starter Handle
14	590741	Locking Tab

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

SERVICE NOTES

SEARS

OWNER'S MANUAL

**MODEL NO.
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