Owner's Manual

CRAFTSMAN[®]

ROTARY LAWN MOWER

5.5 HorsepowerPower-Propelled21" Rear Discharge

Model No. 944.365540



CAUTION:

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

Sears Canada, Inc., Toronto, Ontario M5B 2B8

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WARRANTY

LIMITED TWO YEAR WARRANTY ON CRAFTSMAN POWER MOWER

For Two years from date of purchase Sears Canada, Inc. will repair or replace at Sears option free of charge parts which are defective as a result of material or workmanship.

COMMERCIAL OR RENTAL USE:

Warranty on Power Mower (Gas) will be ninety (90) days from date of purchase if used for commercial or rental purposes.

This Warranty does NOT cover:

- Pre-delivery set-up.
- 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 Centre/Department in Canada. This warranty applies only while this product is used in Canada.

This warranty is in addition to any statutory warranty and does not exclude or limit legal rights you may have but shall run concurrently with applicable provincial legislation. Furthermore, some provinces do NOT allow limitation on how long an implied warranty will last so the above limitations may not apply to you.

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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.

▲ 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.

A CAUTION: Muffler and other engine parts become extremely hot during operation and remain hot after engine has stopped. To avoid severe burns on contact, stay away from these areas.



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.

- 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 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.
- Neverallow 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 spill-age. 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.

PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS

INODUUI	
Serial Number:	Date of Purchase:
Gasoline Capacity / Type:	0,94 Litres (Unleaded Regular)
Oil Capacity:	0,5 Litres
Oil Type (API SG–SL):	SAE 30 (above 0°C/32°F) or SAE 10W-30
Spark Plug (Gap: 0,76 mm)	NGK BPR6ES
Valve Clearance (± 0.04 mm):	Intake: 0.015 mm; Exhaust: 0.020 mm
Blade Bolt Torque:	35-40 ft. lbs. (47-54 N-m)

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

ASSEMBLY / PRE-OPERATION

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 MOWER FROM CARTON

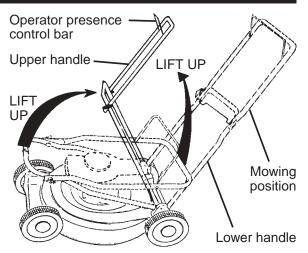
- 1. Remove loose parts included with mower.
- 2. Cut down two end corners of carton and lay end panel down flat.
- Remove all packing materials except padding between upper and lower handle and padding holding operator presence control bar to upper handle.
- 4. Roll mower out of carton and check carton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

HOWTO SET UPYOUR LAWN MOWER TO UNFOLD HANDLE

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

- 1. 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.
- 3. Remove handle padding holding operator presence control bar to upper handle.

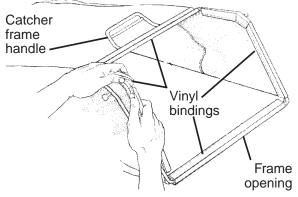
Your lawn mower handle can be adjusted for your mowing comfort. Refer to "AD-JUST HANDLE" in the Service and Adjustments section of this manual.



TO ASSEMBLE GRASS CATCHER

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



TO INSTALL ATTACHMENTS

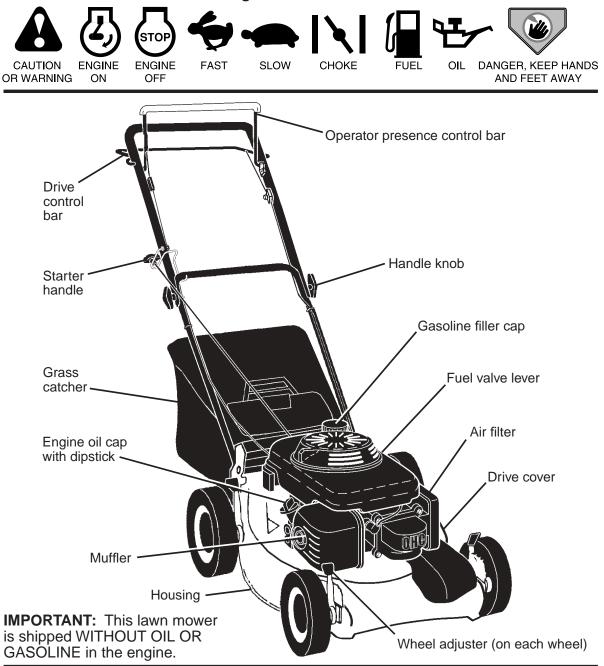
Your lawn mower was shipped ready to be used as a mulcher. To convert to bagging, see "TO CONVERT MOWER" in the 4 Operation section of this manual.

OPERATION

KNOW YOUR LAWN MOWER

READ THIS OWNER'S MANUAL AND ALL 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 bar – must be held down to the handle to start the engine. Release to stop the engine. **Starter handle** – used for starting engine. **Drive control bar** – used to engage power-propelled forward motion of lawn mower.



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 standard safety glasses or a wide vision safety mask worn over spectacles.

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.

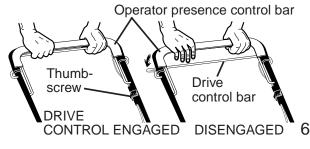
• Your lawn mower is equipped with an operator presence control bar which requires the operator to be positioned behind the lawn mower handle to start and operate the lawn mower.

DRIVE CONTROL

- Self-propelling is controlled by holding the operator presence control bar down to the handle and pulling the drive control bar up to the handle. The closer to the handle the bar is pulled, the faster the unit will travel.
- Forward motion will stop when either the operator presence control bar or drive control bar are released. To stop forward motion without stopping engine, release the drive control bar only. Hold operator presence control bar down against handle to continue mowing without self-propelling.

NOTE: If after releasing the drive control the mower will not roll backwards, push the mower forward slightly to disengage drive wheels.

• To keep drive control engaged when turning corners, push down on the handle to lift the front wheels off the ground while turning lawn mower.



DRIVE CONTROL ADJUSTMENT

Over time, the drive control system may become "loose", resulting in decreased speed. There is a thumbscrew on the underside of the drive control housing to increase tension on the drive cable. Proceed as follows:

- 1. Turn unit off and disconnect spark plug wire from spark plug.
- 2. Rotate thumbscrew counter-clockwise to tighten the drive cable.
- 3. Operate mower to test drive speed.
- 4. If condition fails to improve after the above steps (forward speed remains the same), your drive belt is worn and should be replaced.

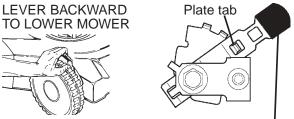
NOTE: If mower begins to "creep" forward, the drive cable is too tight. Rotate thumb-screw clockwise to loosen drive cable.

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.



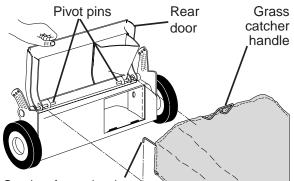
LEVER FORWARD TO RAISE MOWER Lever

TO CONVERT MOWER

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

- Lift rear door of the lawn mower and place the grass catcher frame hooks onto the door pivot pins.
- To convert to mulching operation, remove grass catcher and close rear door.

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

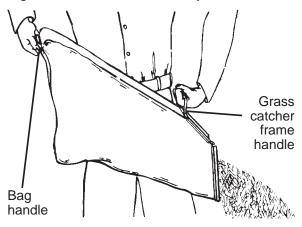


Catcher frame hook

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.



BEFORE STARTING ENGINE

ADD OIL

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

A CAUTION: DO NOT overfill engine with oil, or it will smoke on startup.

- 1. Be sure lawnmower is level.
- 2. Remove oil fill cap/dipstick from oil fill spout.
- 3. You recieve a container of oil with the unit. Slowly pour the entire container down the oil fill spout into the engine.
- 4. Insert and tighten oil fill cap/dipstick. **IMPORTANT:**

Check oil level before each use. Add oil if needed. Fill to full line on dipstick.

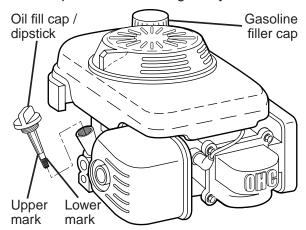
 Change the oil after every 25 hours of operation or each season. You may need to change the oil more often under dusty, dirty conditions. See "TO CHANGE ENGINE OIL" in the Maintenance section of this manual.

ADD GASOLINE

 Fill fuel tank to bottom of tank filler neck. Do not overfill. 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.

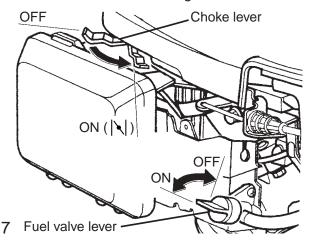
A CAUTION: Wipe off any spilled oil or fuel. Do not store, spill or use gasoline near an open flame.

▲ CAUTION: 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. Empty 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.



TO STOP ENGINE

 To stop engine, release operator presence control bar. Wait until blade and all moving parts have stopped and turn fuel valve to OFF position if you do not intend to restart the engine soon.



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.

- 1. Be sure fuel valve is in the ON position.
- 2. Move choke lever to ON ($| \mathbf{x} |$) position.
- Hold operator presence control bar down to the handle and pull starter handle quickly. Do not allow starter rope to snap back.

NOTE: The choke lever automatically begins moving to the OFF position when operator presence control bar is held down to handle.

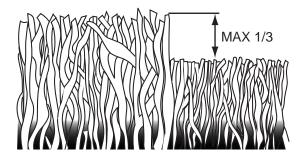
MOWING TIPS

- 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. 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 the 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, yet the newly cut area will not be exposed to direct sunlight.
- 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 grass, 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 (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.

MAINTENANCE

	MAINTENANCE Schedule	BEFORE EACH USE	AFTER EACH USE	EVERY 10 HOURS	EVERY 25 HOURS OR SEASON	EVERY 100 HOURS	BEFORE STORAGE
	Check for Loose Fasteners	~					~
ľ	Clean / Inspect Grass Catcher *	v	~				~
Ŵ	Check Tires	v					
ÎŇ	Check Drive Wheels ***	v					
[]	Clean Lawn Mower ****		~				/
Μ	Clean under Drive Cover ***			/			
0	Check Drive Belt / Pulleys ***				 ✓ 		
W	Check / Sharpen / Replace Blade				✔3		
ER	Lubrication				 ✓ 		
	Clean and Recharge Battery **				 ✓ 		✓4
	Check Engine Oil level	✓5					
Ε	Change Engine Oil				1,2		
N	Clean Air Filter				✓2		
G	Inspect Muffler				 ✓ 		
Ň	Replace Spark Plug					~	
Ē	Replace Air Filter Paper Cartridge					✔2	
Γ	Empty fuel system or add Stabilizer						~

* (if so equipped)

Change more often if operating under a heavy load or in high outdoor temperatures.
 Service more often if operating in dirty or dusty conditions.

** Electric-Start mowers

*** Power-Propelled mowers
**** Use a scraper

3 - Replace blades more often when mowing in sandy soil.4 - Charge 48 hours at end of season.

to clean under deck

5 - And after each 5 hours of use.

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 unit as instructed in this manual.

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

At least once a season, check to see if you should make any of the adjustments described in the Service and Adjustments section of this manual.

- At least 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 assure proper air-fuel mixture and help your engine run better and last longer.
- Follow the maintenance schedule in this manual.

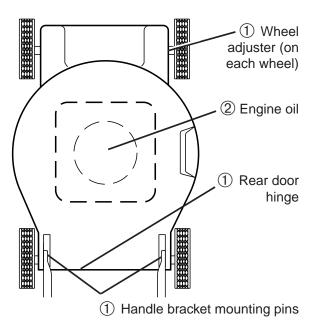
BEFORE EACH USE

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

LUBRICATION

Keep unit well lubricated (See "LUBRICATION CHART").

LUBRICATION CHART



Spray lubricant See "ENGINE" in Maintenance section.

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.

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.

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, be sure to clean 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.

BLADE CARE

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

TO REMOVE BLADE

- 1. Disconnect spark plug wire from spark plug and place wire where it cannot come in contact with plug.
- 2. Turn lawn mower on its side. Make sure air filter and carburetor are up.
- 3. 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.

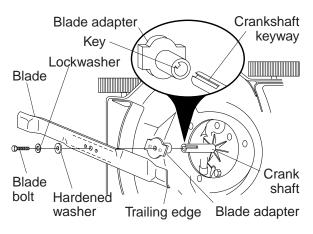
- 4. Remove blade bolt by turning counterclockwise.
- 5. Remove blade and attaching hardware (bolt, lock washer and hardened washer).

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.

TO REPLACE BLADE

- 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.
- 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. / 47-54 N-m.

IMPORTANT: Blade bolt is heat treated. If bolt needs replacing, replace only with approved bolt shown in the Repair Parts section of this manual.



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 approved replacement catcher shown in the Repair Parts section of this manual. Give the lawn mower model number when ordering.

GEAR CASE

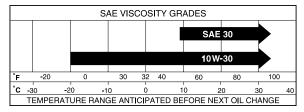
- To keep your drive system working properly, the gear case and area around the drive should be kept clean and free of trash build-up. Clean under the drive cover twice a season.
- The gear case is filled with lubricant to the proper level at the factory. The only time the lubricant needs attention is if service has been performed on the gear case.
- If lubricant is required, use only Elf Multis EP00. Do not substitute.

ENGINE

Maintenance, repair, or replacement of the emission control devices and systems, which are being done at the customers expense, may be performed by any non-road engine repair establishment or individual. Warranty repairs must be performed by an authorized engine manufacturer's service outlet.

LUBRICATION

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



NOTE: Multi-viscosity oils (5W30, 10W30 etc.) improve starting in cold weather, and you should check your engine oil level frequently to avoid possible engine damage from running low on oil.

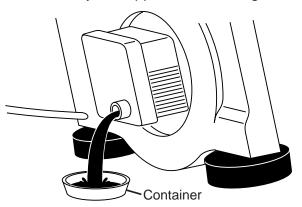
Change the oil after every 25 hours of operation or at least once a year if the lawn mower is not used for 25 hours in one year.

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.

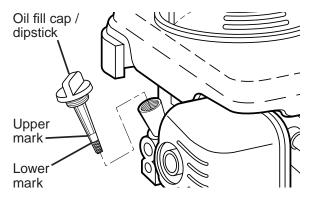
TO CHANGE ENGINE OIL

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

- 1. Disconnect spark plug wire from spark plug and place wire where it cannot come in contact with plug.
- 2. Remove oil fill cap/dipstick; 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.



- 4. Wipe off any spilled oil from lawn mower or side of engine.
- 5. Fill engine with oil. Slowly pour oil down the oil fill spout into the engine.
- Wait one minute to allow oil to settle. Use guage on oil fill cap/dipstick for checking level. Insert dipstick into the tube and rest the oil fill cap on the tube. DO NOT thread the cap into the tube when taking reading.
- Continue adding small amounts of oil and rechecking the dipstick until it reads full. DO NOT overfill, or engine will smoke on startup.
- 8. Always be sure to retighten oil fill cap/ dipstick before starting engine.
- 9. Reconnect spark plug wire to spark plug.



AIR FILTER

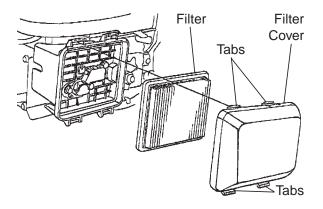
Your engine will not run properly and may be damaged by using a dirty air filter. Replace the air filter every 100 hours of operation or every season, whichever occurs first. Service air cleaner more often under dusty conditions.

TO CLEAN AIR FILTER

- 1. Remove cover.
- 2. Carefully remove cartridge.
- 3. Clean by gently tapping on a flat surface. If very dirty, replace cartridge.

ACAUTION: Petroleum solvents, such as kerosene, are not to be used to clean cartridge. They may cause deterioration of the cartridge. Do not oil cartridge. Do not use pressurized air to clean or dry cartridge.

4. Install cartridge, then replace cover.



MUFFLER

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

SPARK PLUG

Replace spark plug at the beginning of each mowing season or after every 100 hours of operation, whichever occurs first. Spark plug type and gap setting are shown in the "PRODUCT SPECIFIC-ATIONS" section of this manual.

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 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

AWARNING: To avoid serious injury, 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 wire 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.

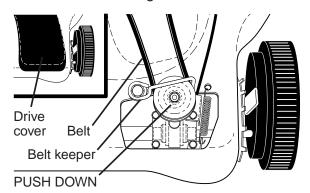
TO REMOVE DRIVE BELT

- 1. Remove drive cover and belt keeper.
- Removebeltfromgearcasepulleybypushing down on pulley and rolling belt off it.
- Turn lawn mower on its side with air filter and carburetor down.
- 4. Remove blade and debris shield.
- 5. Remove belt from engine pulley on crankshaft.

TO REPLACE DRIVE BELT

- 1. Install new belt on engine pulley.
- 2. Reinstall debris shield and blade.
- 3. Return mower to upright position.
- 4. Install new belt on gearcase pulley.

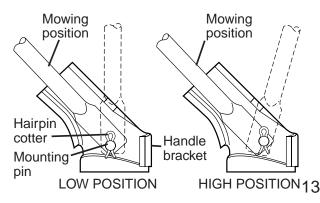
5. Reinstall belt keeper and drive cover. **NOTE:** Always use factory approved belt to assure fit and long life.

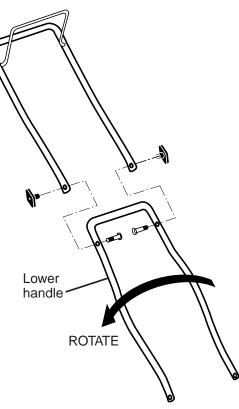


TO ADJUST HANDLE

The handle can be mounted in a high or low position. The mounting holes in the bottom of lower handle are off center for raising or lowering the handle.

- 1. Remove upper handle and wire tie(s) securing cable(s) to lower handle.
- 2. Remove hairpin cotters from lower handle bracket mounting pin.
- 3. Squeeze lower handle in to remove it from mounting pins.
- 4. Turn lower handle over to raise or lower handle.
- 5. Squeeze lower handle in and position holes onto mounting pins on handle bracket.
- 6. Reassemble upper handle and all parts removed from lower handle.





ENGINE

Maintenance, repair, or replacement of the emission control devices and systems, which are being done at the customers expense, may be performed by any non-road engine repair establishment or individual. Warranty repairs must be performed by an authorized engine manufacturer's service outlet.

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 is not adjustable. 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 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.

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.

- 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.
- 3. Be sure that all nuts, bolts, screws, and pins are securely fastened. Inspect moving parts for damage, breakage and wear. Replace if necessary.
- 4. Touch up all rusted or chipped paint surfaces; sand lightly before painting.

HANDLE

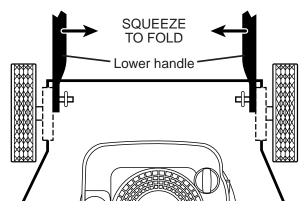
You can fold your lawn mower handle for storage.

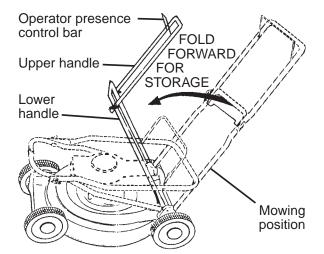
NOTE: The upper handle has an "anti-fold" bracket located on the right side of the handle. This bracket prevents the upper handle from folding forward, which helps protect control cable(s) from damage.

- 1. Squeeze the bottom ends of the lower handle toward each other until the lower handle clears the handle bracket, then move handle forward.
- 2. 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.





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, 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.

- Empty the fuel tank by starting the engine and letting 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.
- 2. Pour 30 ml of oil through spark plug hole into cylinder.
- 3. 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 protect it 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 areas are still warm.

ACAUTION: 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 - See appropriate section in manual unless directed to a Sears Service Centre.

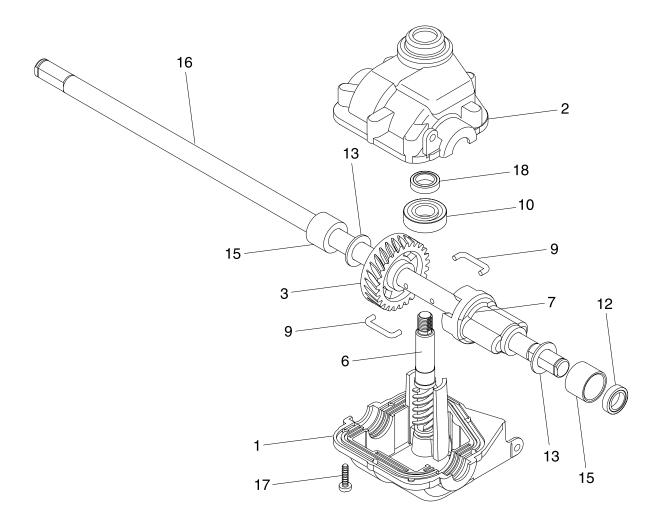
PROBLEM	CAUSE	CORRECTION
Does not start	 Dirty air filter. Out of fuel. Stale fuel. Water in fuel. Spark plug wire is disconnected. Bad spark plug. Loose blade or broken blade adapter. Control bar in released position. Control bar defective. Fuel valve lever (if so equipped) in OFF position. Weak battery (if equipped). Disconnected battery connector (if equipped). 	 Clean/replace air filter. Fill fuel tank. Empty fuel tank and refill tank with fresh, clean gasoline. Empty fuel tank and refill tank with fresh, clean gasoline. Connect wire to plug. Replace spark plug. Tighten blade bolt or replace blade adapter. Depress control bar to handle. Replace control bar. Turn fuel valve lever to the ON position. Connect battery. Connect battery to engine.
Loss of power	 Rear of lawn mower housing or cutting blade dragging in heavy grass. Cutting too much grass. Dirty air filter. Buildup of grass, leaves, and trash under mower. Too much oil in engine. Walking speed too fast. 	 Raise cutting height. Raise cutting height. Clean/replace air filter. Clean underside of mower housing. Check oil level. Cut at slower walking speed.

TROUBLESHOOTING - See appropriate section in manual unless directed to a Sears Service Center.

PROBLEM	CAUSE	CORRECTION
Poor cut – uneven	 Worn, bent or loose blade. Wheel heights uneven. Buildup of grass, leaves and trash under mower. 	 Replace blade. Tighten blade bolt. Set all wheels at same height. Clean underside of mower housing.
Excessive vibration	 Worn, bent or loose blade. Bent engine crankshaft. 	 Replace blade. Tighten blade bolt. Contact a Sears or other qualified service center.
Starter rope hard to pull	 Engine flywheel brake is on when control bar is released. Bent engine crankshaft. Blade adapter broken. Blade dragging in grass. 	 Depress control bar to upper handle before pulling starter rope. Contact a Sears or other qualified service center. Replace blade adapter. Move lawn mower to cut grass or to hard surface.
Grass catcher not filling (If so equipped)	 Cutting height too low. Lift on blade worn off. Catcher not venting air. 	 Raise cutting height. Replace blade. Clean grass catcher.
Hard to push	 Grass is too high or wheel height is too low. Rear of lawn mower housing or cutting blade dragging in grass. Grass catcher too full. Handle height position not right for you. 	 Raise cutting height. Raise rear of lawn mower housing one (1) setting higher. Empty grass catcher. Adjust handle height to suit.
Loss of drive or slowing of drive speed	 Belt wear. Belt off of pulley. Drive cable worn or broken. "Loose" drive control system. 	 Check/replace drive belt. Check/reinstall drive belt. Replace drive cable. Adjust drive control.

REPAIR PARTS

CRAFTSMAN ROTARY LAWN MOWER - - MODEL NUMBER 944.365540 GEAR CASE ASSEMBLY - - PART NUMBER 187212

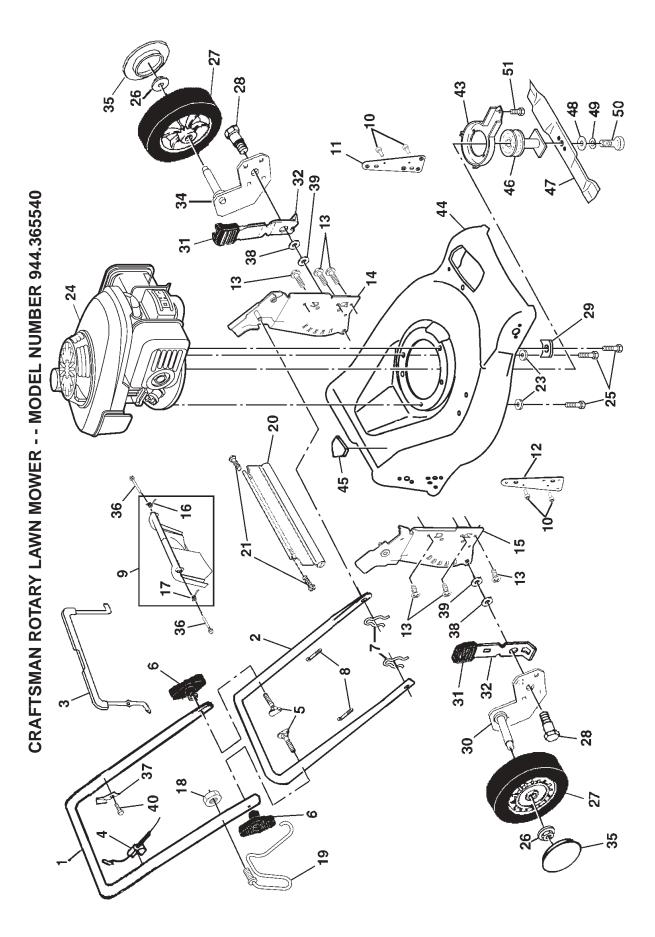


KEY	PART	
NO.	NO.	0

- DESCRIPTION
- 1 187525 Case, Lower
- 187526
- Case, Upper Gear, 27 Teeth 2 3 183499
- 6 187527 Shaft, Input
- 7 187528 Spacer
- Wire, Formed 9 183505
- 10 183506 Bearing, Ball
- Seal, Output Shaft 12 183508
- 13 183509 Washer
- 15 183511 Bushing
- Shaft, **Öutput** 187529 16 17
 - 183513 Screw
- 18 Seal, Input Shaft 183514

NOTE: Use Dow Corning #709 to reseal Gear Case Halves.

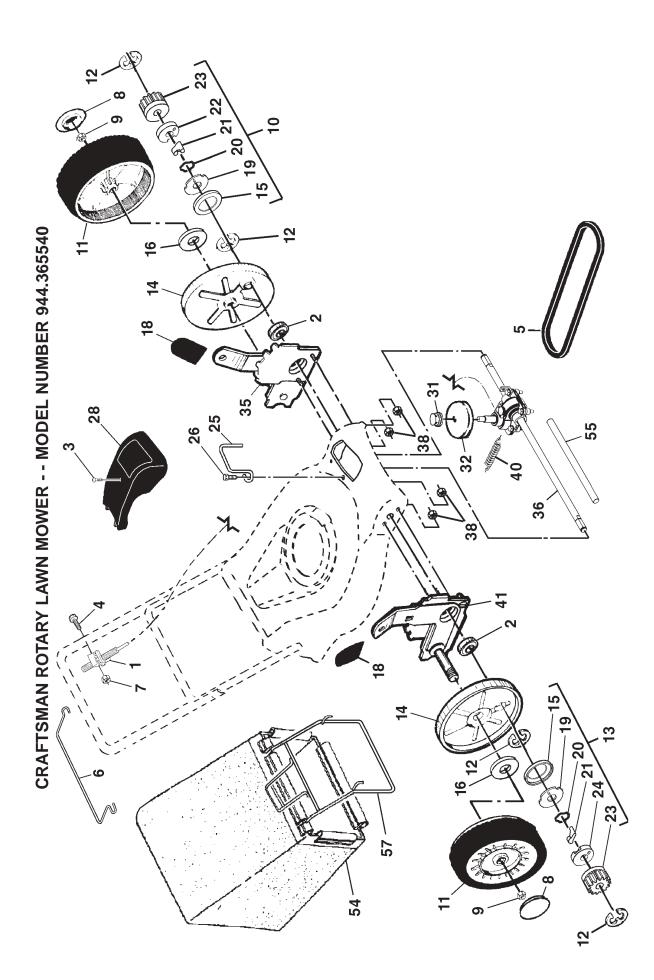
NOTE: All component dimensions given in U.S. inches. 1 inch = 25.4 mm



CRAFTSMAN ROTARY LAWN MOWER - - MODEL NUMBER 944.365540

DESCRIPTION	Upper Handle Lower Handle Control Bar Engine Zone Control Cable Handle Bolt Handle Bolt Handle Knob Hairpin Cotter Wire Tie Rear Door Kit (Includes Key Numbers 16 and 17) Pop Rivet Support Bracket, LH Support Bracket, LH Support Bracket, RH Support Bracket, RH Support Bracket, RH Spring, LH Spring, LH Spring, LH Spring, LH Spring, LH Keps Locknut 1/4-20 Rope Guide / Anti-Fold Bracket Rear Skirt Hinge Screw 1/4-20 x 1-1/4 Washer, Hardened Engine, Honda, Model Number GCV160-AS3A (See Breakdown) Screw, Hex Head, Threaded, Rolled 3/8-16 x 1-1/8 Hex Flange Nut Wheel
PART NO.	185508X479 151721X479 182755 191574 182755 191574 189713X428 51793 66426 180479 175069X479 175069X479 175060410 175082X479 175081X479 175081X479 175081X479 175081X479 175081X479 175081X479 175081X479 175081X479 175081X479 175081X479 175081X479 175081X479 175081X479 175081X479 175081X479 175081X479 175081X479 175081X479 175081X479 175081X479 175081X479 175082 851074 186073 189005 88652 851074 180071 150406 83923 150406 83923
KEY NO.	-00400-0000000000000000000000000000000

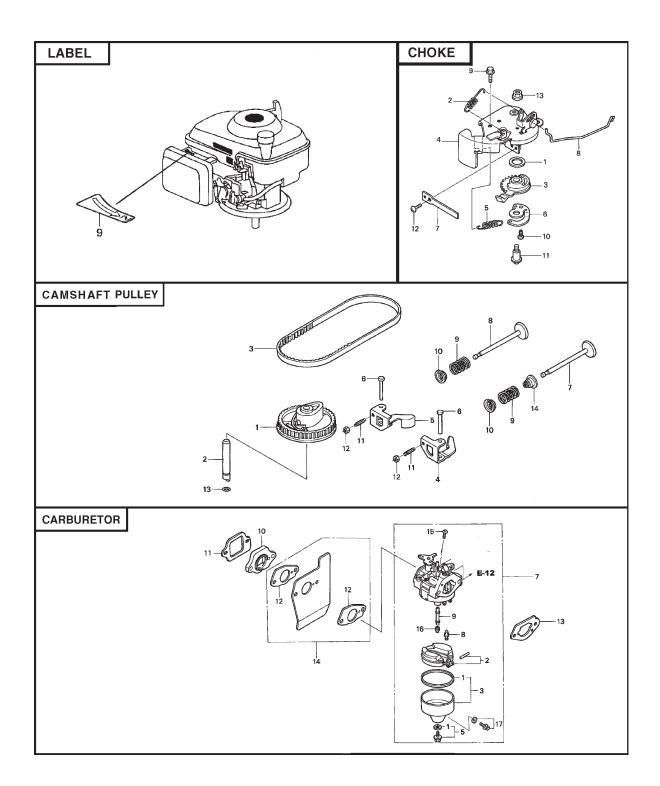
NOIL	 28 189312 Shoulder Bolt 5/16-18 29 851201X004 Washer, Engine 30 186575X004 Axle Arm Assembly, RR 31 8787 Selector Knob 32 175060X004 Selector Spring 33 18656 Hubcap 34 186576X004 Axle Arm Assembly, LR 35 180626 Hubcap 36 184193 Bolt 37 85073X004 Bracket, Upstop 38 176185 Pushnut 39 176185 Pushnut 31 176185 Pushnut 31 176185 Pushnut 33 187038 Crew, Mower Housing 44 186645 Kit, Lawn Mower Housing 45 107339X Blade Adapter / Pulley 46 184590 Blade Adapter / Pulley 47 189028 Blade Adapter / Pulley 48 851074 Hardened Washer 49 850028 Blade Adapter / Pulley 40 188040 Screw, Machine, Hex Head 3/8-24 x 1-3/8 Grade 8 50 851084 Screw, Machine, Hex Head 3/8-24 x 1-3/8 Grade 8 51 188040 Warning Decal (not shown) 192791 Owner's Manual, French MOTE: All component dimensions given in U.S. inches. 1 1.05 = 254 mm 	
DESCRIPTION	Shoulder Bolt 5/1 Washer, Engine Axle Arm Assemb Selector Knob Selector Spring Axle Arm Assemb Hubcap Bolt Bolt Bracket, Upstop Washer, Step Pushnut Debris Step Washer, Step Vusher, Step Pushnut Debris Step Munnower F (Includes Key Nun Danger Decal Blade, 21" Hardened Washer 3/ Screw, Machine, F Screw, Machine, F Screw, Machine, F Screw, Machine, F Screw, Machine, F Owner's Manual, F Owner's Manual, F	
PART NO.	189312 8851201X004 M A 87877 851201X004 M A 87877 8575X004 S 87877 87877 85060X004 S 87877 85076004 A 186576X004 A 186576X004 A 176235 P 176255 P 17655 P 17655 P 17655 P 17655 P 17655 P 176555 P 17655 P 176	
KEY NO.	28 29 29 29 29 29 29 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20	



CRAFTSMAN ROTARY LAWN MOWER - - MODEL NUMBER 944.365540

DESCRIPTION	Retainer, Drive, LH Pinion, Gear Retainer, Drive, RH Keeper, Belt Screw 5/16-18 x 1 Drive Cover Nut, Hex, Flanged Pulley, Drive Kit, Wheel Adjuster, LH (includes Knob and Bearing) Geor Cree Accombly, Commit	Cean case Assembly, Complete Locknut 1/4-20 Spring Kit, Wheel Adjuster, RH (includes Knob and Bearing) Grassbag Assembly Driveshaft Cover Frame, Grassbag	NOTE: All component dimensions given in U.S. inches. 1 inch = 25.4 mm
PART NO.	175105 175103 175103 175102 18102 173715 175065 175065 132010 182406 182915	16/212 73800400 182226 189255 175739 188815	E: All component dir 1 inch = 25.4 mm
KEY NO.	8 33333888254335 333335888888	5555 410 5755 410 5755 410	NOTE
DESCRIPTION		Princer & rire Asseringly Prinon Assembly, RH Dust Cover Seal, Friction Washer 1/2 x -1-1/2 x .134 Selector Knob Disc, Drive Spring, Torsion	
PART NO.	189182 169911 175262 185681 169778 169778 18952X428 751152 189626 145212 145212 1453331	100773 12000058 188330 189403 184172 67725 87877 175104 188291	175098
KEY NO.		2002429202	

21



LABELS

KEY NO.		DESCRIPTION
9	7400187	Mark, Choke Indication
СНО	ΚE	
KEY NO.	PART NO.	DESCRIPTION
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	7257157 4209581 7257165 7257173 7257181 7257199 7257207 7229867 0747733 3674413 2544690 0369017 0636951	Seal, Choke Lever Spring, Cable Return Lever, Choke Base Comp., Choke Spring, Choke Lever Hook, Choke Spring Plate, Choke Rod, Stop Bolt, Flange #6 x 16 Screw, Tapping #4 x 8 (PO) Screw, Pan Head #5 x 19 Screw, Pan Head #4 x 8 Nut, Flange 5 mm

CAMSHAFT PULLEY

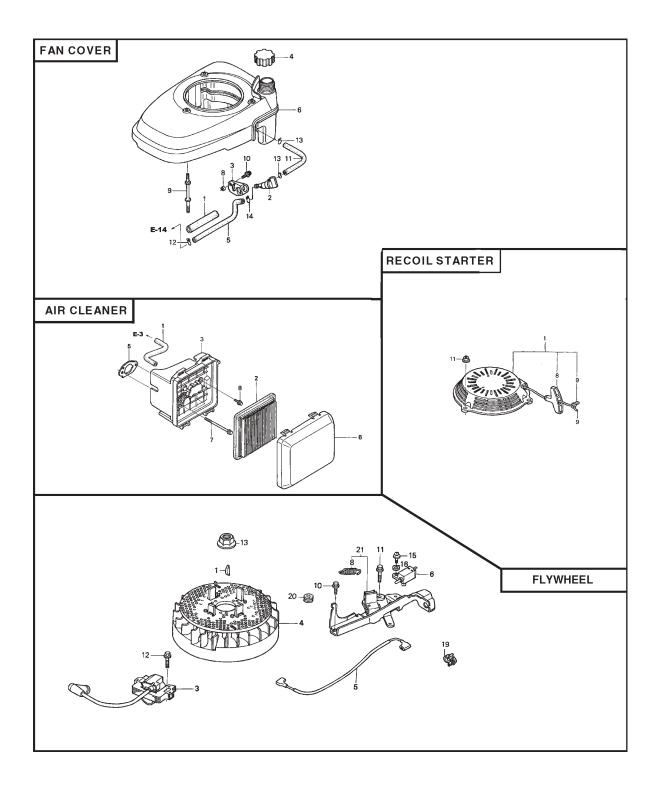
KEY NO.	PART NO.	DESCRIPTION
1	7049679	Pulley Comp., Camshaft
2	5580063	Shaft, Cam Pulley
3	7058985	Belt, Timing (84HU7 G-200)
4	5580089	Rocker Arm, Intake Valve
5	5580097	Rocker Arm, Exhaust Valve
6	5580105	Shaft, Rocker Arm
7	5580113	Valve, Intake
8	5580121	Valve, Exhaust
9	5580139	Spring, Valve
10	1426980	Retainer, Intake Valve Spring
11	0294819	Screw, Tappet Adjusting
12	0004598	Nut, Tappet Adjusting
13	6315873	O-Ring 6.8 x 1.9 (ARAI)
14	6839831	Seal, Valve Stem

CARBURETOR

KEY PART

NO.	NO.	DESCRIPTION
1	3088416	Packing Set
2	5580162	Float Set
3	3465879	Chamber Set, Float
5	1441518	Screw Set
7	7301138	Carburetor Asssembly (BB62G A)
8	5580212	Valve, Float
9	5580220	Nozzle, Main
10	5580238	Insulator, Carburetor
11	5580246	Packing, Insulator
12	4581120	Packing, Carburetor
13	5580253	Packing, Carburetor
14	5580535	Guide Čomp., Air
15	0639419	Screw, Pan Head #5 x 6
16	0635474	Jet, Main #60
	0635482	Jet, Main #62
	0636126	Jet, Main #65
17	1672187	Screw Set, Drain

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



FAN COVER

KEY NO.	PART NO.	DESCRIPTION
1 2	3683646 7357379	Rubber Supporter (107 mm) Cock Assembly, Fuel
2	5189352	Bracket, Fuel Cock
4	6673289	Cap Assembly, Fuel Tank
5	5580469	Tube, Fuel
6	7399371	Cover Comp., Fan (T89)
8	6978399	Collar, Fuel Cock
9	5581004	Bolt, Stud
10	0671636	Screw, Washer Head #5 x 10
11	6754279	Tube, Fuel Tank
12	0250647	Clip, Tube (B8)
13	0250985	Clip, Tube (1310)
14	0053447	Clip, Tube (C9)

AIR CLEANER

KEY NO.	PART NO.	DESCRIPTION
1	5720289	Tube, Breather
2	6718159	Element, Air Cleaner
3	5580410	Case Assembly, Air Cleaner
5	5664560	Packing, Air Cleaner
6	6673255	Cover, Air Cleaner
7	5580964	Bolt, Flange #6 x 86 (CT200)
8	2374742	Bolt, Flange #6 x 14

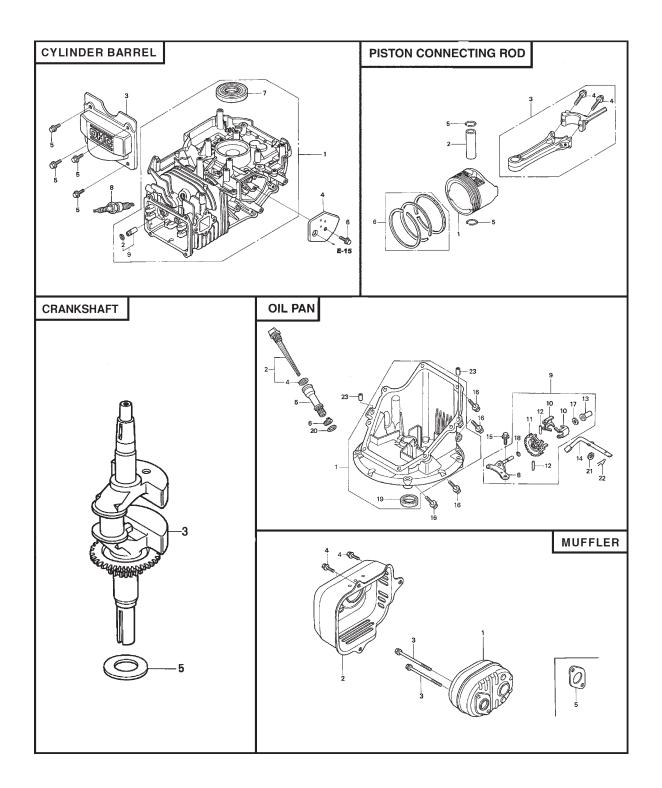
RECOIL STARTER

KEY NO.	PART NO.	DESCRIPTION
1	6092886	Starter Assembly, Recoil
8	5580634	Grip, Starter
9	5580642	Rope, Recoil Starter
11	6478812	Nut, Flange 6mm

FLYWHEEL

KEY NO.	PART NO.	DESCRIPTION
1 3 4 5 6 8 10 11 12 13	0348433 6859722 6859714 6315816 5580683 5580790 0803619 1725050 0671552 0442038 0495046	Key, Special, Woodruff #25 x 18 Coil Assembly, Ignition Flywheel Assembly Cord, Stop Switch Switch Assembly, Engine Stop Spring, Brake Lever Bolt, Flange #6 x 14 (CT200) Bolt, Flange #6 x 23 (CT200) Bolt, Flange #6 x 20 (CT200) Nut, Special 14 mm Serew Wooher Head #4x12
15 16	0485946 1510361	Screw, Washer Head #4x12 Washer, Plain 4 mm
19	1824630	Clip A, Cable
20	1240845	Grommet A, Rear Cover
21	7301591	Brake Sub-Assembly

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



CYLINDER BARREL

KEY NO.	PART NO.	DESCRIPTION
1	6842413	Barrel Assembly, Cylinder
2	2399780	Clip, Valve Guide
3	5579990	Cover, Head
4	5580006	Cover Comp., Breather
5	0636845	Bolt, Flange #6 x 12 (CT200)
6	0803619	Bolt, Flange #6 x 14 (CT200)
7	5581038	Oil Seal 25A x 62 x 6
8	1441112	Plug, Spark (BPR6ES) (NGK)
9	1899848	Guide, Exhaust Valve (O.S.)

PISTON / CONNECTING ROD

KEY NO.	PART NO.	DESCRIPTION
1	5580014	Piston
2	1426576	Pin, Piston
3	5580022	Rod Assembly, Connecting
4	1431055	Bolt, Connecting Rod
5	2605517	Clip, Piston Pin 13 mm
6	5655949	Ring Set, Piston (Riken)
	7154727	Ring Set, Piston (Teikoku)

CRANKSHAFT

KEY NO.	PART NO.	DESCRIPTION
3	5664495	Crankshaft Comp.

3	5664495	Crankshaft Comp
5	5581012	Washer, Thrust

OIL PAN

KEY NO.	PART NO.	DESCRIPTION
1 2 4 5 6 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	6771489 5716915 1452754 5664503 5664511 6384341 6384333 5580295 1427244 1427251 5580303 0803619 0748111 2413862 2456697 5581046 1377704 0345900 0115527 1417369	Pan Assembly, Oil Gauge Assembly, Oil Level Packing, Oil Filler cap Extension, Oil Filler Washer, Extension Rock Shaft Comp., Governor Holder Governor Assembly Weight, Governor Holder, Governor Weight Pin, Governor Weight Slider, Governor Weight Slider, Governor Arm Bolt, Flange #6 x 14 (CT200) Bolt, Flange #6 x 14 (CT200) Bolt, Flange #6 x 25 Washer, Thrust 6 mm Clip, Governor Holder Oil Seal 28 x 41.25 x 6 O-Ring 14.8 x 2.4 (NOK) Washer, Plain 6 mm Pin, Lock 8 mm Dowel Pin #8 x 20

MUFFLER

KEY NO.	PART NO.	DESCRIPTION
1	5580485	Muffler Comp.
2	5664610	Protector, Muffler (CBU)
3	5580972	Bolt, Flange #6 x 79 (CT200)
4	0636845	Bolt, Flange #6 x 12 (CT200)
5	5737457	Gasket, Muffler

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

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