Owner’s Manual

CRAFTSMAN

19” Mulching/Rear Discharge
PUSH LAWN MOWER

Model No.
247.388240

CAUTION: Before using this product, read this manual and follow all Safety Rules and Operating Instructions.

Sears, Roebuck & Co., Hoffman Estates, IL 60179, U.S.A.
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WARRANTY INFORMATION

Two-Year Warranty on Craftsman Lawn Mower

For two years from the date of purchase, when this Craftsman lawn mower is maintained, lubricated, and tuned up according to the instructions in the owner's manual, Sears will repair, free of charge, any defects in material or workmanship. If this 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:
1. Expendable items which become worn during normal use, such as rotary mower blades, blade adapters, belts, air cleaners and spark plug.
2. Repairs necessary because of operator abuse or negligence, including bent crankshafts and the failure to maintain equipment according to the instructions contained in the owner's manual.

WARRANTY SERVICE IS AVAILABLE BY RETURNING THE CRAFTSMAN LAWN MOWER TO THE NEAREST SEARS SERVICE CENTER 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/817WA, Hoffman Estates, IL 60179

ACCESSORIES

These accessories were available when the lawn mower was purchased. They are also available at most Sears retail outlets, and service centers. Most Sears stores can order repair parts for you when you provide the model number of your lawn mower.

PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specification</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Horsepower</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engine Oil</td>
<td>21 oz. SAE 30 oil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fuel Capacity</td>
<td>1.5 quarts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spark Plug</td>
<td>J19LM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gap</td>
<td>.030 inches</td>
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</table>

Please record model number, serial number, and date of purchase here for future reference. You will find this information on the model plate located on the cutting deck of your mower.

Model Number..........................................................................
Serial Number...........................................................................
Date of Purchase........................................................................
SAFE OPERATION PRACTICES

This symbol points out important safety instructions which, if not followed, could endanger the personal safety and/or property of yourself and others. Read and follow all instructions in this manual before attempting to operate your lawn mower. Failure to comply with these instructions may result in personal injury. When you see this symbol—heed its warning.

DANGER:

Your lawn mower was built to be operated according to the rules for safe operation in this manual. As with any type of power equipment, carelessness or error on the part of the operator can result in serious injury. If you violate any of these rules, you may cause serious injury to yourself or others.

This unit is equipped with an internal combustion engine and should not be used on or near any unimproved forest-covered, brush-covered or grass-covered land unless the engine's exhaust system is equipped with a spark arrester meeting applicable local or state laws (if any). If a spark arrester is used, it should be maintained in effective working order by the operator. In the State of California the above is required by law (Section 4442 of the California Public Resources Code). Other states may have similar laws. Federal laws apply on federal lands. A spark arrester for the muffler is available through your nearest Sears Authorized Service Center (See the REPAIR PARTS section of this manual.)

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

GENERAL OPERATION

• Read this owner's guide carefully in its entirety before attempting to assemble this machine. Read, understand, and follow all instructions on the machine and in the manual(s) before operation. Be completely familiar with the controls and the proper use of this machine before operating it. Keep this manual in a safe place for future and regular reference, and for ordering replacement parts.

• Your rotary mower is a precision piece of power equipment, not a plaything. Therefore, exercise extreme caution at all times. Your unit has been designed to perform one job: to mow grass. Do not use it for any other purpose.

• Never allow children under 14 years old to operate a power mower. Children 14 years old and over should only operate mower under close parental supervision. Only responsible individuals who are familiar with these rules of safe operation should be allowed to use your mower.

• Keep the area of operation clear of all persons, particularly small children and pets. Stop engine when they are in the vicinity of your mower to help prevent blade contact or thrown object injury. Although the area of operation should be completely cleared of foreign objects, an object may have been overlooked and could be accidentally thrown by the mower in any direction and cause serious personal injury to the operator or any others allowed in the area.

• Thoroughly inspect the area where the equipment is to be used. Remove all stones, sticks, wire, bones, toys and other foreign objects which could be picked up and thrown by the mower in any direction and cause serious personal injury to the operator or any others allowed in the area. Plan your mowing pattern to avoid discharge of material toward roads, sidewalks, bystanders and the like. To help avoid a thrown object's injury, keep children, bystanders and helpers at least 75 feet from the mower while it is in operation.

• Always wear safety glasses or safety goggles during operation or while performing an adjustment or repair, to protect eyes from foreign objects that may be thrown from the machine in any direction. Wear sturdy, rough-soled work shoes and close-fitting slacks and shirts. Shirts and pants that cover the arms and legs and steel-toed shoes are recommended. Do not wear loose fitting clothing or jewelry. They can be caught in moving parts. Never operate a unit in bare feet, sandals, slippery or light weight (e.g. canvas) shoes.

• Do not put hands or feet near or under rotating parts. Keep clear of discharge opening at all times as the rotating blade can cause injury.

• Many injuries occur as a result of the mower being pulled over the foot during a fall. Do not hang on to the mower if you are falling; release the handle immediately.

• Never pull the mower toward you while you are walking. If you must back the mower away from a
wall or obstruction first look down and behind, and then follow these steps:

a. Step back from the mower to fully extend your arms.
b. Be sure you are well balanced with sure footing.
c. Pull the mower back slowly, no more than half way toward you.
d. Repeat these steps as needed.

- Do not operate the mower while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Do not engage the self-propelled mechanism on units so equipped while starting engine.
- The blade control handle is a safety device. Never attempt to bypass its operation. Doing so makes the safety device inoperative and may result in personal injury through contact with the rotating blade. The blade control handle must operate easily in both directions and automatically return to the disengaged position when released.
- Never operate the mower in wet grass. Always be sure of your footing. A slip and fall can cause serious personal injury. Keep a firm hold on the handle and walk, never run. If you feel you are losing your footing, RELEASE THE BLADE CONTROL HANDLE IMMEDIATELY and the blades will stop rotating within three seconds.
- Mow only in daylight or good artificial light.
- Stop the blades when crossing gravel drives, walks or roads.
- If the equipment should start to vibrate abnormally, stop the engine and check immediately for the cause. Vibration is generally a warning of trouble.
- Shut the engine off and wait until the blade comes to a complete stop before removing the grass catcher, plates or other safety protective devices in place.
- Muffler and engine become hot and can cause a burn. Do not touch.
- Do not adjust the throttle control with the engine running.
- Only use accessories approved for this machine by the manufacturer. Read, understand, and follow all instructions provided with the approved accessory.
- If situations occur which are not covered in this manual, use care and good judgment. Contact your dealer for assistance.

Slope Operation

For your safety, use the slope gauge included as part of this manual to measure slopes before operating this unit on a slope or hilly area. If the slope is greater than 15 degrees as shown on the slope gauge (page 6), do not operate this unit on that area or serious injury could result.

DO:

- Mow across the face of slopes; never up and down. Exercise extreme caution when changing direction on slopes.
- Watch for holes, ruts, hidden objects, or bumps. Tall grass can hide obstacles.
- Always be sure of your footing. A slip and fall can cause serious personal injury. If you feel you are losing your balance release the blade control handle immediately and the blade will stop in less than 3 seconds.
- ON MODELS WITH CASTER WHEELS: Lock both front wheels so they do not pivot while mowing on the face of slopes. To turn the mower, depress the handle and raise the front wheels slightly.

DO NOT:

- Do not mow near drop-offs, ditches or embankments. The operator could lose footing or balance.
- Do not mow slopes greater than 15 degrees as shown on the slope gauge.
- Do not mow on wet grass. Reduced footing could cause slipping.
- ON MOWERS WITH CASTER WHEELS: Do Not mow on slopes with casters unlocked since the mower has a tendency to drift down hill.

Children

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

- Keep children out of the mowing area and under the watchful care of a responsible adult other than the operator.
- Be alert and turn mower off if a child enters the area.
- Before and while moving backwards, look behind and down for small children or other objects.
- Never allow children under age 14 to operate the mower. Children 14 years of age and above should read and understand the operation instructions and safety rules in this manual.
- Use extreme care when approaching blind corners, shrubs, trees, or other objects that may obscure your vision of a child or hazard.

Service

- Use extreme care in handling gasoline and other fuels. They are extremely flammable and the vapors are explosive.
- Use only an approved gasoline container.
- Never remove gas cap or add fuel while the engine is running. Allow engine to cool at least two minutes before refueling.
• Replace gasoline cap securely and wipe off any spilled gasoline before starting the engine as it may cause a fire or explosion.
• Extinguish all cigarettes, cigars, pipes and other sources of ignition.
• Never refuel machine indoors because flammable vapors will accumulate in the area.
• Never store the machine or fuel container inside where there is an open flame or spark such as a gas water heater, space heater, or furnace.
• Never run an engine inside a closed area.
• To reduce fire hazard, keep mower free of grass, leaves, or other debris build-up. Clean up oil or fuel spillage. Allow mower to cool at least 5 minutes before storing.
• Before cleaning, repairing, or inspecting, make certain the blade and all moving parts have stopped. Disconnect the spark plug wire, and keep the wire away from the spark plug to prevent accidental starting.
• Check the blade and engine mounting bolts at frequent intervals for proper tightness. Also, visually inspect blade for damage (e.g., bent, cracked or worn). Replace with blade which meets original equipment specifications listed in this manual.
• Keep all nuts, bolts, and screws tight to be sure the equipment is in safe working condition.
• Never tamper with safety devices. Check their proper operation regularly.

YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

Restrict the use of this power machine to persons who read, understand and follow the warnings and instructions in this manual and on the machine.

Following are representations of the safety labels on your lawn mower. Maintain safety while operating the mower. Please have the part number ready when re-ordering safety labels.

SAVE THESE INSTRUCTIONS FOR FUTURE REFERENCE.
Do not mow on inclines with a slope in excess of 15 degrees (a rise of approximately 2-1/2 feet every 10 feet). A riding mower could overturn and cause serious injury. If operating a walk-behind mower on such a slope, it is extremely difficult to maintain your footing and you could slip, resulting in serious injury.

Operate RIDING mowers up and down slopes, never across the face of slopes.

Operate WALK-BEHIND mowers across the face of slopes, never up and down slopes.
Removing Unit From Carton

- Remove staples, break glue on top flaps, or cut tape at carton end and peel along top flap to open carton.
- Remove loose parts if included with unit (i.e., owner's manual, etc.).
- Cut along dotted lines and lay carton down flat.
- Remove packing material. Roll unit out of carton. Check carton thoroughly for loose parts.

Note: Make sure not to crimp the cable while removing loose parts or the unit from the carton.

IMPORTANT: This unit is shipped without gasoline or oil in the engine. Be certain to service engine with gasoline and oil before operating your mower.

NOTE: Reference to right or left hand side of the mower and/or front or behind the mower is observed from the operating position.

Loose Parts

- Owner's Manual
- A Bottle of Engine Oil
- Parts for Grass Bag: Frame, Bag
- Discharge Chute

Tools Required

- Pair of Pliers
- Funnel

Disconnecting Spark Plug

- Before setting up your lawn mower, disconnect the spark plug wire from the spark plug, and ground it against the engine. See Figure 1.
- Attach rubber boot to a bolt on the engine to ground as shown below.

Assembling Handle

- Raise lower handle in direction A shown in Figure 2. It should snap into place.

Note: Make sure to route the cable inside the lower handle. Also do not crimp the cable while lifting the handle up.
Attaching Starter Rope
The rope guide is already attached to the right side of the upper handle of your mower. See Figure 5.
• With the spark plug wire disconnected and grounded, hold the blade control handle against the upper handle, and pull starter rope out of the engine.
• Slip the rope through the rope guide as shown in Figure 5. Tighten the wing nut holding the rope guide to the upper handle.

Attaching Discharge Chute
• There is a groove 2" from the left end of the rod. Bend and snap off approximately 2" of the rod with a pair of vise grips. See Figure 6.
• Insert push cap, provided with the chute rod, onto the end of the rod which you just snapped off. Tap on with a hammer. See Figure 6.
• To attach discharge chute: Lift the discharge door and place the ends of the chute rod into the slot on each handle bracket assembly. Release the rear discharge door.
• To remove discharge chute: Lift the rear discharge door of the mower. Lift the discharge chute up and outwards and pull it out of the slots on the handle bracket assemblies. Release the rear discharge door.

Assembling Grass Catcher
NOTE: Make certain bag is turned right side out before assembling (warning label will be on the outside).

Attaching Grass Catcher to Mower
• Lift the chute door on the mower. Remove the mulching plug or the discharge chute. See Figure 8.
• Holding the grass bag firmly, place the bag on the mower as shown in Figure 9.
• Place hooks, located on two sides of the grass catcher frame, in the slots on the handle brackets. See Figure 9. Release the chute door.

Warning: Never operate the mower unless the grass catcher frame is firmly seated on the chute door pivot rod, and the rear discharge door rests firmly on top of the grass catcher.
Know Your Lawn Mower

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

**WARNING:** The operation of any lawn mower can result in foreign objects being thrown into the operator's eyes and causing severe eye damage. Always wear safety glasses while operating the mower, or while performing any adjustments or repairs on it.

**Recoil Starter**
The recoil starter is attached to the handle. Stand behind the unit and pull the recoil starter to start the unit.

**Primer**
The primer is used to pump gas into the carburetor. Use it to start a cold engine, but do not use it to restart a warm engine after short shutdown.

**Blade Control Handle**
The blade control handle is located on the upper handle of the mower. The blade control handle must be depressed in order to operate the unit. Release blade control handle to stop engine and blade.

**Height Adjustment Lever**
These levers are located on each wheel and are used to adjust the cutting height. All four levers have to be at the same relative position to ensure uniform cut.

**WARNING:** This blade control mechanism is a safety device. Never attempt to bypass its operations.

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**Meets CPSC Blade Safety Standards**
Stopping Engine

• Release blade control handle to stop the engine and the blade.
• Disconnect spark plug wire and move away from spark plug to prevent accidental starting.

WARNING: Before using your lawn mower, again refer to the safety rules on pages 3-5 of this manual. Always be careful.

Gas And Oil Fill-Up

Engine Oil
Only use high quality detergent oil rated with API service classification SF, SG or SH. Select the oil's viscosity grade according to your expected operating temperature. Follow the chart below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Colder</th>
<th>32°F</th>
<th>Warmer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5W30</td>
<td>SAE 30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Oil Viscosity Grade Chart

• Use SAE30 oil; do not use 10W40 oil.
• Fill oil sump and check the oil level as follows:
  a. Position the mower on level ground.
  b. Clean area around oil fill plug.
  c. Remove oil fill plug and dipstick.
  d. Wipe dipstick clean, insert it into oil fill hole and tighten securely.
  e. Remove dipstick and check oil level. If the oil is not upto FULL mark on the dipstick, pour recommended oil through the oil fill and check the level again.
• Install oil fill plug and dipstick, tighten securely.

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

Gasoline

WARNING: Never fill fuel tank indoors, or when engine is running or hot. Do not smoke when filling fuel tank.

• Clean area around gas tank cap. For location, see Figure 10. Remove cap.
• Use a funnel to prevent spillage.
• Pour approximately 1.5 quarts of fresh, regular grade, unleaded gasoline slowly to the fuel tank.

IMPORTANT: Never mix engine oil with gasoline.

• Fill tank to 1/2" below the bottom of the filler neck. Wipe any fuel spillage. Do not fill fuel tank completely. Provide space for fuel expansion.

Starting Engine

(Refer to Figure 11.)

WARNING: Be sure no one other than the operator is standing near the lawn mower while starting or operating.

• Attach spark plug wire to spark plug. Make certain the metal cap on the end of the spark plug wire is fastened securely over the metal tip on the spark plug.

WARNING: Never run engine indoors or in enclosed, poorly ventilated areas. Engine exhaust contains carbon monoxide, an odorless and deadly gas.

WARNING: Keep hands, feet, hair and loose clothing away from any moving parts on engine and lawn mower.

• Push primer three times. Wait about two seconds between each push. In cold weather around 55°F or below, prime five times. Do not prime to restart a warm engine after a short shutdown.
• Hold control handle against the upper handle. Grasp recoil starter and pull rope out slowly until engine reaches the start of compression cycle (rope will pull slightly harder at this point). See Figure 11 inset. Let the rope rewind slowly.
Pull rope with a rapid, continuous, full arm stroke. Keeping a firm grip on the recoil starter, let the rope return to the starter slowly.

**Using Your Lawn Mower**

Your mower is designed to operate as a mulching or a side discharge unit.

- For converting from a mulcher to a side discharge unit, refer to instructions on page 8. **Do not operate mower without the mulching deflector or the grass catcher properly installed and tightly secured.**
- Be sure that lawn is clear of stones, sticks, wire, or other objects which could damage lawn mower or engine. Such objects could be accidentally thrown by the mower in any direction and cause serious personal injury to the operator and others.
- **For best results, do not cut wet grass because it tends to stick to the underside of the mower, preventing proper discharge of grass clippings, and could cause you to slip and fall.** New grass, thick grass or wet grass may require a narrower cut. Blade speed should be adjusted to the condition of the lawn.
- The best mowing pattern is one that allows the clippings to discharge towards the uncut part of the lawn. This permits recutting of the clippings to further pulverize them. When cutting high weeds, discharge towards cut portion, then recut at right angles to first direction.
- For a healthy lawn, always cut off one-third or less of the total length of the grass. Lawn should be cut in the fall as long as there is growth.
- This mower is designed to be operated at full throttle to give you the best cut and do the most effective job of bagging the clippings.

**WARNING:** If the mower strikes a foreign object, stop the engine. Remove spark plug wire from spark plug and thoroughly inspect the mower for any damage. Repair the damage before restarting the mower. **Extensive vibration during operation is an indication of equipment damage.**

**Using Grass Catcher**

You can use the grass catcher bag to collect clippings while operating the mower.

- Attach the grass catcher to the mower following instructions on page 8 of this manual.

- Operate the mower till the grass catcher bag is full, or the job has been completed whichever is earlier.
- Stop the engine completely by releasing the blade control handle. Make sure that the unit has come to a complete stop and the blade has stopped rotating. Empty the grass catcher bag as follows.
- Lift the discharge door and pull the grass bag away from the mower as shown in Figure 12.
- Holding the bag firmly, carry the bag away from the mower. Dispose off the clippings appropriately.

**Height Adjustment**

Refer to height adjustments section of this manual on page 16 for instruction on how to adjust the cutting height and the handle height.

For best results in mowing, keep the cutting height position high until it is determined which height is best for your lawn.
General Recommendations

- Always observe safety rules when performing any maintenance.
- 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, the operator must maintain the lawn mower as instructed in this manual.
- Changing of engine governed speed will void the engine warranty.
- Some adjustments will have to be made periodically to maintain your unit properly.
- All adjustments in the Service and Adjustments section of this manual should be checked at least once each season.
- Follow the maintenance schedule given below.
- Periodically check all fasteners and make sure these are tight.

**WARNING:** Always stop the engine and disconnect the spark plug wire before performing any maintenance or adjustments.

Cleaning

The underside of the mower deck should be cleaned after each use to prevent any buildup of grass clippings, leaves, dirt, or other debris. If this debris is allowed to accumulate, it will result in rust and corrosion.

**WARNING:** Never tip the mower more than 90 degrees and do not leave the mower tipped for any length of time. Oil can drain into the upper part of the engine causing a starting problem.

**NOTE:** We do not recommend using a garden hose to clean mower unless the muffler, air filter and carburetor are covered to keep water out. Water in engine can shorten engine life.

Engine Maintenance

**WARNING:** Always stop engine, disconnect spark plug wire, and move it away from spark plug before performing any adjustments or repairs.

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**Customer Responsibilities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE</th>
<th>After each use</th>
<th>First two hours</th>
<th>Every 25 hours</th>
<th>Every 50 hours</th>
<th>Every 100 hours</th>
<th>Once a season</th>
<th>Before scrap</th>
<th>SERVICE DATES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PRODUCT</strong></td>
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Engine Oil
- Only use high quality detergent oil rated with API service classification SF, SG or SH. Select the oil's viscosity grade according to your expected operating temperature. Refer to page 10 of this manual for viscosity chart.
- Stop engine and wait several minutes before checking oil level. With engine on level ground, the oil must be to FULL mark on dipstick.
- Change engine oil after the first five hours of operation, and every twenty-five hours thereafter.

To Change Engine Oil
Change oil after first two operating hours and every 25 operating hours thereafter. Drain oil while engine is warm. Follow the instructions given below.
- Tip the mower with the spark plug facing up.
- Place a container under the dipstick. Pull the dipstick out of oil fill.
- Drain the oil sump empty, collecting oil in an approved container.
- Fill oil sump with 21 ounces of fresh SAE 30 oil. Refer to page 10 of this manual for oil fill-up instructions.

Air Cleaner
The air cleaner prevents damaging dirt, dust, etc., from entering the carburetor and being forced into the engine and is important to engine life and performance. Replace filter once a year or every 100 operating hours, more often if used in extremely dusty conditions.

To Service Air Cleaner:
- Turn air filter cover counterclockwise and remove the cover and filter from the flange. See Figure 13. Discard filter.
- Clean cover and flange thoroughly.
- Insert the new filter into the cover.
- Place the cover and the filter against flange with tab on the cover inserted into lower left corner of slot in flange. See Figure 13.
- Push cover firmly against flange and turn it clockwise as far as it will go. Make sure that the retainers are locked around the flange. See Figure 13.

WARNING: Never run the engine without air cleaner completely assembled.

Clean Engine
- Clean engine periodically. Remove dirt and debris with a cloth or brush.
- Frequently remove grass clippings, dirt and debris from cooling fins, air intake screen and levers and linkage. This will help ensure adequate cooling and correct engine speed.

NOTE: Do not clean with a forceful spray of water as water could contaminate the fuel system.

Spark Plug
- Clean spark plug and reset gap to .030" at least once a season or every 50 hours of operation. See Figure 14. Spark plug replacement is recommended at the start of each season. Refer to engine parts list for correct spark plug type.

NOTE: Do not sandblast spark plug. Spark plug should be cleaned by scraping or wire brushing and washing with a commercial solvent.

WARNING: Do not operate the lawn mower without a muffler, or tamper with the exhaust system. Damaged mufflers or spark arresters could create a fire hazard. Temperature of muffler and nearby areas may exceed 150°F(65°C).
Blade Care

Periodically inspect the blade adapter for cracks, especially if you strike a foreign object. Replace when necessary.

**WARNING:** When inspecting the cutting blade, protect hands by using heavy gloves or a rag to grasp the cutting blade.

- Disconnect spark plug wire from spark plug.
- Turn mower on its side making sure that the air filter and the carburetor are up to check the blade. If the blade needs to be serviced, refer to the instructions on blade care in the "Service & Adjustments" section of this manual.

Lubrication

**Wheels**

- Lubricate the wheels at least once a season with light oil or engine oil. Also, if the wheels are removed for any reason, lubricate the surface of the axle bolt and the inner surface of the wheel with light oil.

**Blade Control Handle**

- Lubricate the pivot points on the blade control handle and the brake cable at least once a season with light oil. The blade control handle must operate freely in both directions. For complete lubrication chart, see Figure 15.

**Chute Deflector**

- Lubricate the torsion spring and the pivot point on each end of the chute deflector using a light oil. This will prevent rusting and ensure that the deflector, which is a safety device, can always work properly.

NOTE: For sake of clarity, illustrations in the insets represent view from another perspective rather than from the operating position.

Figure 15: Lubrication Chart
Servicing Blade

To Remove Blade
- Remove the bolt and blade bell support which hold the blade and adapter to the engine crankshaft. See Figure 16.
- Remove the blade and adapter from the crankshaft.

To Replace Blade:
- Before reinstalling the blade and the blade adapter to the unit, lubricate the engine crankshaft and the inner surface of the blade adapter with light oil.
- Install the blade adapter on the crankshaft with the "star" away from the engine. See Figure 16.

Blade Adapter

Blade

Crankshaft

Hex Bolt

Blade Bell Support

Figure 16

- Place the new blade with the side marked bottom (or with part number) facing away from the adapter.
- Place the bell support next. Make sure to align the tabs in the holes of the blade with the hole in the bell support.
- Insert the hex bolt through the blade assembly. Figure 16 shows the correct order of assembly.
- Use block of wood to hold blade again while you tighten the bolt clockwise. Follow the recommended torque for the bolt which is 450-600 in.-lbs.

IMPORTANT: The bolt, used to secure the blade to the engine, is specially heat-treated. Do not substitute. To order replacement bolt, refer to the Repair Parts section of this manual.

WARNING: To ensure safe operation of your unit, all nuts and bolts must be checked periodically for correct tightness.

To Sharpen Blade:
The blade can be sharpened with a file or on a grinding wheel. Do not attempt to sharpen while on the mower.
- Follow the original angle of grind as a guide. Make sure that each cutting edge receives an equal amount of grinding to prevent an unbalanced blade.

NOTE: An unbalanced blade will cause excessive vibration when rotating at high speeds, may cause damage to the mower and could break, causing personal injury.
- Test the blade by balancing it on a round shaft screwdriver or a blade balancer. See Figure 17.
- If the blade is not balanced, remove metal from the heavy side until it balances evenly.

1. Insert screw driver through hole

2. Blade should be parallel to ground

Figure 17

Engine Adjustments

WARNING: Do not make unnecessary adjustments on the engine. Factory settings are satisfactory for most conditions.
If any adjustments are made to the engine while the engine is running, keep clear of all moving parts. Be careful of heated surfaces and muffler. Keep your hands away from these parts.

Carburetor
The carburetor has been pre-set at the factory and should not require adjustment.
- If the engine on your mower does not operate properly due to suspected carburetor problems, take your lawn mower to your nearest SEARS service center.
- Engine performance may be affected in altitudes above 4000 feet. To improve engine performance, install a high altitude adjustment kit, available at the SEARS service center.

NOTE: A dirty air cleaner will cause an engine to run rough. Be certain air cleaner is clean and attached to the carburetor.
Engine Speed

**WARNING:** Overspeeding engine above the factory setting can be dangerous. Do not attempt to increase engine speed or it may result in personal injury. Changing of engine governed speed will void engine warranty.

- If you believe the engine is running too fast or too slow, take your lawn mower to the nearest SEARS service center.

Adjusting Handle Height
Your mower is shipped with the handle in the higher height position. To lower the handle height, proceed as follows.

- Remove the starter rope from the rope guide.
- Remove the upper handle by removing the hand knobs and carriage bolts. Lay the upper handle out of the way, being careful not to bend or kink the cable.
- Remove the hairpin clip from the weld pin on the handle bracket on each side of the lower handle. See Figure 18 inset. Press out on the legs of the lower handle. Remove lower handle from the mower.
- Turn the lower handle around so the notch on the bottom of the lower handle is facing forward as shown in Figure 18. Reassemble, placing the bottom hole on the handle over the weld pin in the handle mounting bracket.
- Reassemble the upper handle to the lower handle.
- Place the hairpin clips in the inner holes in the weld pins and attach the starter rope as instructed in the Assembly section. See Figure 18 inset.

Adjusting Cutting Height

**IMPORTANT:** All wheels must be placed in the same relative position.

- Raise the mower wheels for low cut and lower the wheels for high cut. For rough or uneven lawns, move the height adjustment lever to a higher position. This will help stop scalping of the grass.
- There is an adjusting plate and thumb lever at each wheel position to adjust the cutting height. Each adjusting plate has nine height positions. Height of cut will change if you move the thumb lever from one hole to another.
- Simply depress the lever towards wheel and move the wheel and lever assembly to the desired position. See Figure 19. All wheels must be placed in the same relative position for uniform cutting height.
- For rough or uneven lawns, move the height adjustment handles to positions which will give a higher cutting height. Both front and rear handles must be placed in the same relative position.
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. Store the mower in a clean, dry area.

Mower
- Clean underside of the mower following instructions in the Maintenance section of this manual.
- Inspect and replace/sharpen blade, if required. Refer to the Maintenance section of this manual for blade care instructions.
- Lubricate mower following the lubrication chart on page 14 of this manual.

You can fold your mower's handle for convenient storage as shown in Figure 20. Follow the steps below to fold the handle.
- Remove the starter rope from the rope guide.
- Loosen the two hand knobs on the sides of the handle, and let the upper handle fold down to the rear.
- Move the hairpin clips to the outer hole in the weld pins on the handle mounting brackets.
- Spread the sides of the lower handle, and push it forward and down.

Engine

NOTE: When folding the handle for storage or transportation, be careful not to bend or kink the cable.

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 fuel system & carburetor

WARNING: Drain fuel into approved container outdoors away from open flame. Be sure engine is cool. Do not smoke.
- Drain the fuel tank.
- Start the engine and let it run until the fuel lines and carburetor are empty.
- Drain carburetor by removing bowl drain screw which is located below the carburetor. See Figure 21.

Drain fuelsystem & carburetor

WARNING: Drain fuel into approved container outdoors away from open flame. Be sure engine is cool. Do not smoke.

Engine

WARNING: Never use engine or carburetor cleaner products in the fuel tank or permanent damage may occur.
- Use fresh fuel next season.

Use fuel stabilizer

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. Drain all the oil from the crankcase (This should be done after the engine has been operated and is still warm) and refill the crankcase with fresh oil.

Figure 20

Figure 20

NOTE: When folding the handle for storage or transportation, be careful not to bend or kink the cable.

Figure 21

Figure 21

WARNING: Never use engine or carburetor cleaner products in the fuel tank or permanent damage may occur.
- Use fresh fuel next season.

Use fuel stabilizer

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. Drain all the oil from the crankcase (This should be done after the engine has been operated and is still warm) and refill the crankcase with fresh oil.
Oil cylinder bore
After you have drained the fuel tank, protect the inside of the engine as follows:

• Remove spark plug, pour approximately one ounce (30 ml) of engine oil into spark plug hole, and crank slowly to distribute oil.

WARNING: Avoid spray from spark plug hole when cranking the engine slowly.

• Replace spark plug; do not connect spark plug wire.

Clean engine
• Clean engine and remove any grass clippings, dirt, or chaff from the exterior of the engine.
• Remove any dirt or debris from cooling fins, air intake screen, levers, and linkage.

OTHER
• Do not store gasoline from one season to another.
• Replace your gasoline can if it starts to rust. Rust and/or dirt in the gasoline will cause problems. Store unit in a clean, dry area. Do not store next to corrosive materials, such as fertilizer.

NOTE: If storing in an unventilated or metal storage shed, be certain to rustproof the equipment by coating with a light oil or silicone.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>PROBLEM</th>
<th>POSSIBLE CAUSE</th>
<th>CORRECTIVE ACTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Occasional skip (hesitates) at high speed</td>
<td>1. Spark plug gap too close</td>
<td>1. Adjust gap to .030 inches.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Idles poorly</td>
<td>1. Spark plug fouled, faulty, or gap too wide 2. Dirty air cleaner</td>
<td>1. Reset gap to .030 inches or replace spark plug. 2. Clean air cleaner following instructions on page 13.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mower will not mulch grass</td>
<td>1. Wet grass 2. Excessively high grass 3. Dull blade</td>
<td>1. Wait until later to cut. 2. Mow once at a high cutting height, then mow again at desired height. Make a narrower cutting swath (1/2 width). Do not cut off more than 1/3 of the total length. 3. Sharpen or replace blade.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Uneven cut</td>
<td>1. Wheels not in same height position 2. Dull blade</td>
<td>1. Place all four wheels in same relative height position. 2. Sharpen or replace blade.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For repairs beyond the minor adjustments listed above, please contact your nearest SEARS Service Center.
### SEARS CRAFTSMAN 4.0 H.P. LAWN MOWER MODEL 247.388240

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Key No.</th>
<th>Part No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Key No.</th>
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<td>Screw, 1/4-20 x 1-1/4&quot;*</td>
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<td>92</td>
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<td>103</td>
<td>651007</td>
<td>Screw, Torx T-15, 10-24 x 15/16&quot;*</td>
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<td>34080</td>
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<td>37047</td>
<td>Ground Wire</td>
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<tr>
<td>119</td>
<td>37028</td>
<td>Cylinder Head Gasket</td>
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<td>34080</td>
<td>Gasket Set</td>
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<td>120</td>
<td>36825</td>
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<td>34080</td>
<td>Spark Arrestor Kit (Optional)</td>
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<td>125</td>
<td>37288</td>
<td>Exhaust Valve (Std.) (Incl. 151)</td>
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<td>Screw, 10-32 x 1/2&quot; (Optional)</td>
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<td>37289</td>
<td>Intake Valve (Std.) (Incl. 151)</td>
<td>325</td>
<td>34080</td>
<td>Replacement Engine NONE, order from 71-9990</td>
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* This engine could have been built with 590894 starter
CRAFTSMAN ENGINE NO. 143.994002 FOR
CRAFTSMAN 4.05 H.P. LAWN MOWER MODEL 247.388240

Carburetor No. 640173

<table>
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<th>Part No.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>631615</td>
<td>Throttle Shaft &amp; Lever Assembly</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>631767</td>
<td>Throttle Return Spring</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>631184</td>
<td>Dust Seal Washer (Throttle)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>631183</td>
<td>Dust Seal (Throttle)</td>
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<td>631616</td>
<td>Throttle Shutter</td>
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<td>650506</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>631807</td>
<td>Fuel Fitting</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>631700</td>
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<td>631021</td>
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CRAFTSMAN ENGINE NO. 143.994002 FOR
CRAFTSMAN 4.0 H.P. LAWN MOWER MODEL 247.388240

Recoil Starter 590694

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<td>590600</td>
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<td>590696</td>
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<td>590697</td>
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<td>590698</td>
<td>Starter Dog</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>590699</td>
<td>Dog Spring</td>
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<tr>
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<td>590700</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
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Recoil Starter 590737

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<td>Starter Handle</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>590760</td>
<td>Spring Clip</td>
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</table>
For in-home major brand repair service:
Call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
1-800-4-MY-HOME℠(1-800-469-4663)
Para pedir servicio de reparación a domicilio — 1-800-676-5811
In Canada for all your service and parts needs, call
Au Canada pour tout le service ou les pièces —1-800-665-4455

For the repair or replacement parts you need:
Call 7 am — 7 pm, 7 days a week
1-800-366-PART (1-800-366-7278)
Para ordenar piezas con entrega a domicilio — 1-800-659-7084

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Call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
1-800-488-1222

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Call 9 am — 5 pm, Monday — Saturday
1-800-827-6655