



**WHEEL HORSE<sup>®</sup>**  
**FRONT MOUNT**  
**MOWER CARRIER**

**for**  
**42" and 48" Mowers**  
**on**  
**Classic Garden Tractors**  
**Model No. 79380 – 8900001 & Up**

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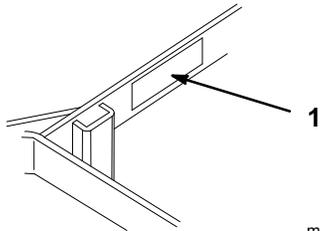
# **Operator's Manual**

**IMPORTANT:** Read this manual carefully. It contains information about your safety and the safety of others. Also become familiar with the controls and their proper use before you operate the product.

# Introduction

We want you to be completely satisfied with your new product, so feel free to contact your local Authorized Service Dealer for help with service, genuine replacement parts, or other information you may require.

Whenever you contact your Authorized Service Dealer or the factory, always know the model and serial numbers of your product. These numbers will help the Service Dealer or Service Representative provide exact information about your specific product. You will find the model and serial number plate located in a unique place on the product as shown below.



m-3547

1. Model and Serial Number Plate

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For your convenience, write the product model and serial numbers in the space below.

<b>Model No:</b> _____
<b>Serial No.</b> _____

The warning system in this manual identifies potential hazards and has special safety messages that help you and others avoid personal injury, even death. DANGER, WARNING and CAUTION are signal words used to identify the level of hazard. However, regardless of the hazard, be extremely careful.

**DANGER** signals an extreme hazard that will cause serious injury or death if the recommended precautions are not followed.

**WARNING** signals a hazard that may cause serious injury or death if the recommended precautions are not followed.

**CAUTION** signals a hazard that may cause minor or moderate injury if the recommended precautions are not followed.

Two other words are also used to highlight information. “Important” calls attention to special mechanical information and “Note” emphasizes general information worthy of special attention.

The left and right side of the machine is determined by sitting on the seat in the normal operator’s position.

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# Installation

## Loose Parts

**Note:** Use the chart below to identify parts used for assembly.

DESCRIPTION	QTY.	USE
Locknut–thin (3/8"–16)	2	Preparing a 48" side discharge mower
Bolt (3/8"–16 x 1–1/4")	1	Preparing a 42" side discharge mower
Locknut–thin (3/8"–16)	2	
Extension Handle	1	Install the extension handle
Bolt (1/4"–20 x 3/4")	2	
Locknut (1/4"–20)	2	
Front Wheel	2	Assemble wheels
Bolt (3/8"–16 x 4")	1	
Short Spacer	1	
Long Spacer	1	
Locknut (3/8"–16)	1	
Bolt (3/8"–16 x 2")	1	Assemble V–idler assembly
Washer (3/8")	3	
Spacer Bushing	1	
Mid–mount Idler Shaft	1	
Locknut (3/8"–16)	1	
Idler Spring	1	
Bolt (3/8"–16 x 2")	1	Install flat idler pulley on hitch frame
Washer (3/8")	2	
Spacer Bushing	1	
Hitch Frame	1	
Locknut (3/8"–16)	1	

DESCRIPTION	QTY.	USE
Pivot Frame	1	Assemble carrier frames
Flange Bushing	2	
Locking Collar	1	
Set Screw	1	
Washer (1")	1	
Snap Ring	1	
Main Frame	1	
Pivot Rod	1	
Clevis Pin (1/2" x 1-1/4")	2	
Washer (1/2")	4	
Cotter Pin (1/8" x 1")	2	
Hairpin Cotter (1-7/8")	2	
Bushing	2	Install front wheels
Snap ring	2	
L-shaped Hanger Rod	2	Attaching the mower to the carrier
Cotter Pin (3/32" x 1")	2	
Washer (1/2")	4	
Gage Wheel	2	
Washer (3/8")	2	
Hairpin Cotter (1-7/8")	2	
Locknut (1/2"-20)	2	
Spring Bracket	1	
Bolt (3/8"-16 x 1")	1	
Locknut (3/8"-16")	1	
Belt	1	Install drive belt on a 42" mower with a 1 cylinder tractor

**IMPORTANT:** The carrier places a higher than normal load on the tractor's front wheels. Replacement of the front wheel bearings with current service parts is recommended on 1982 and earlier C-Series and 1984 and earlier GT-Series tractors. Contact your Authorized Service Dealer for more information.

## Prepare Mower

**Note:** Mower changes apply to 1978 and later mowers. Earlier models may not work with the mower carrier.

### Preparing a 48" Side Discharge Mower

1. Remove and discard the (2) 3/8"-16 locknuts that secure the idler spring from the mower idler bar (Fig. 1).
2. Cut off the edge of the plastic washer located under the lower nut (Fig. 1).
3. Install the idler spring using (2) thin 3/8"-16 locknuts and the cut washer (Fig. 1).



Figure 1

4. Make several saw cuts about half-way down the support plate at the rear of the mower (Fig. 2).

**Note:** This area can also be removed by filing or grinding.

5. Bend the "tabs" formed by the saw cuts back and down, to provide belt clearance. This can be done by clamping a pair of locking pliers to the plate and progressively bending the metal.

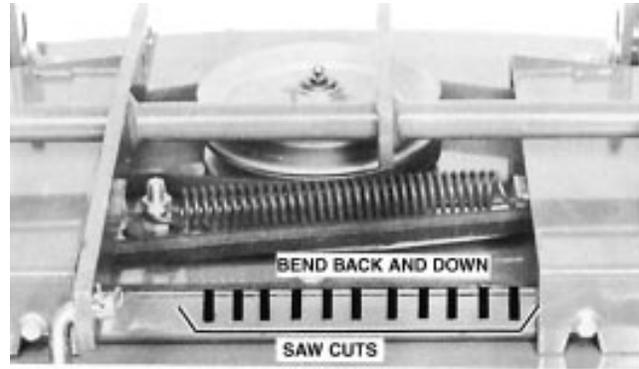


Figure 2

### Preparing a 42" Side Discharge Mower

1. Remove the 3/8"-16 x 1"-3/4 bolt and (2) 3/8"-16 locknuts that secure the idler spring from the mower idler bar and discard. (Fig. 3).
2. Cut off the edge of the plastic washer located under the lower nut (Fig. 3).
3. Install the idler spring using the 3/8"-16 x 1-1/4" bolt, (2) thin 3/8"-16 locknuts, and the cut washer (Fig. 3).
4. Remove the right-hand belt cover (Fig. 3).
5. Measure and remove the area of the belt cover shown in Fig. 3.

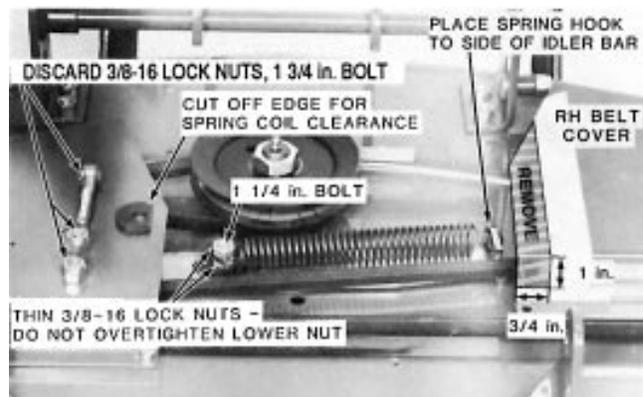


Figure 3

## Remove Gage Wheels and Front Hitch Shaft on Either Mower

1. Remove the rear gage wheels and store the wheels and all hardware for future use (Fig. 4).
2. Remove the front hitch shaft, store the shaft with the gage wheels, and save the hardware for use when attaching the mower to the carrier frame (Fig. 4).

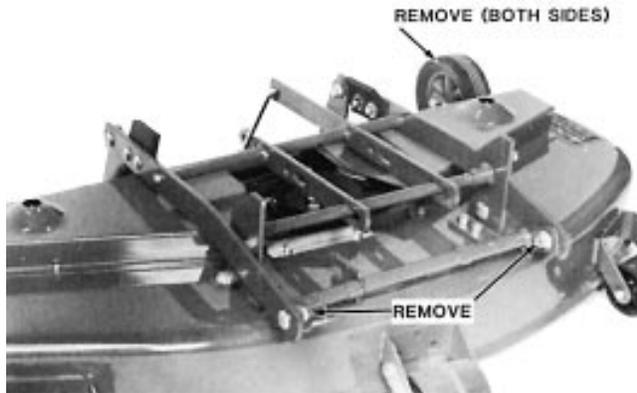


Figure 4

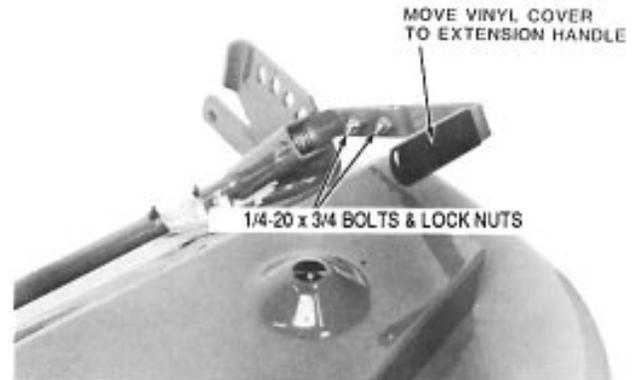


Figure 5

## Install the Extension Handle

1. Remove the vinyl cover from the mower height control handle.
2. Using the extension handle as a template, drill a 1/4" hole in the height control handle so that the extension handle can be bolted to it (Fig. 5).
3. Secure the extension handle to the height control handle with (2) 1/4"-20 x 3/4" bolts and (2) 3/4"-20 locknuts (Fig. 5).
4. Slide the vinyl cover over the end of the extension handle (Fig. 5).

## Assembling the Carrier

1. Install both front wheels into the swivel brackets with a 3/8"-16 x 4" bolt, short spacer, long spacer, and 3/8"-19 locknut (Fig. 6).



Figure 6

2. Remove the V-idler and flat idler pulleys from the idler assembly that comes with the mower. Store the remaining idler assembly hardware for future use.
3. Slide a 3/8" washer, V-idler pulley, spacer bushing (with the smaller end toward the pulley), and (2) 3/8" washers onto a 3/8"-16 x 2" bolt (Fig. 7).
4. Slide the bolt into the hole in the end of the lower bracket of the mid-mount idler shaft and secure it with a 3/8"-16 locknut (Fig. 7).
5. Hook the idler spring through the hole in the upper bracket of the mid-mount idler shaft (Fig. 7).

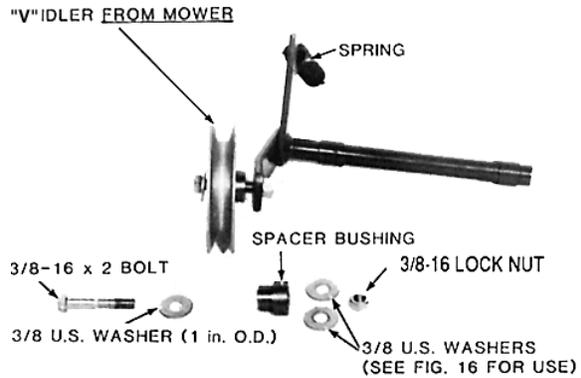


Figure 7

6. Slide a 3/8" washer, flat idler pulley, and a spacer bushing (with the smaller end toward the pulley) onto a 3/8"-16 x 2" bolt (Fig. 8).
7. Slide the bolt into the slot nearest the edge of the bracket on the hitch frame and secure it with a 3/8" washer and 3/8"-16 locknut (Fig. 8).

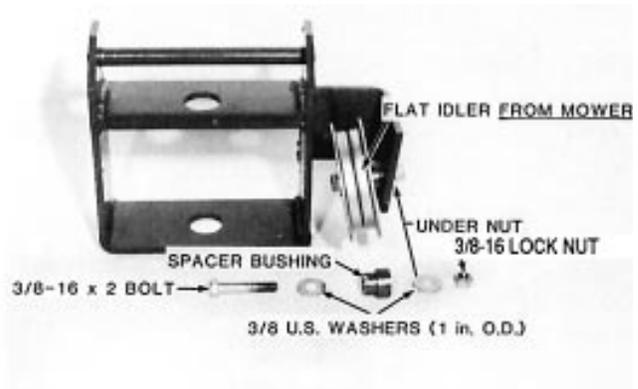


Figure 8

8. Slide the first hole in the hitch frame onto the pin on the pivot frame, followed by a flange bushing (smaller end towards the pivot frame) and the locking collar. (Fig. 9).
9. Slide the pin on the pivot frame through the other hole in the hitch frame, followed by a flange bushing (smaller end towards the pivot frame), a 1" washer (if it will fit), and a snap ring with the sharp edge toward the hitch frame (Fig. 9).
10. With the locking collar centered on the pin between the holes in the hitch frame, secure it in place with a set screw (Fig. 9).

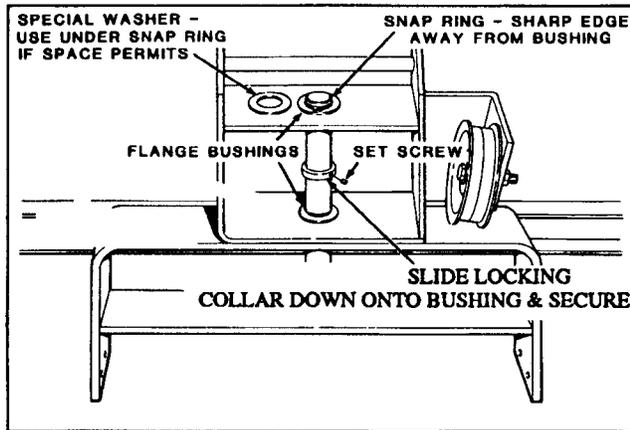


Figure 9

11. With the carrier frames positioned as shown in Fig. 10, insert the long pivot rod through the top holes in the frames and (2) 1/2" x 1-1/4" clevis pins through the lower holes.

12. Secure the pivot rod to the frame with (2) 1/2" washers and (2) 1/8" x 1" cotter pins (Fig. 10).
13. Secure the clevis pins with (2) 1/2" washers and (2) 1-7/8" hairpin cotters (Fig. 10).

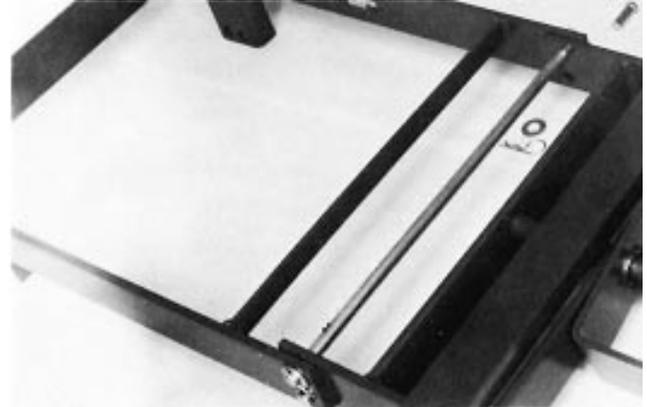


Figure 10

14. Insert a bushing in the top of each main frame swivel tube and slip another bushing on the shaft of each wheel swivel (Fig. 11).
15. Slide each wheel swivel shaft into a swivel tube from the bottom (Fig. 11).
16. Secure the wheel swivel to the main frame with a snap ring, sharp edge away from the bushing (Fig. 11).

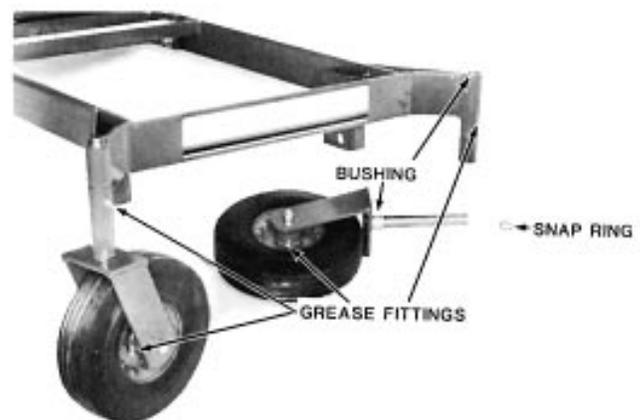
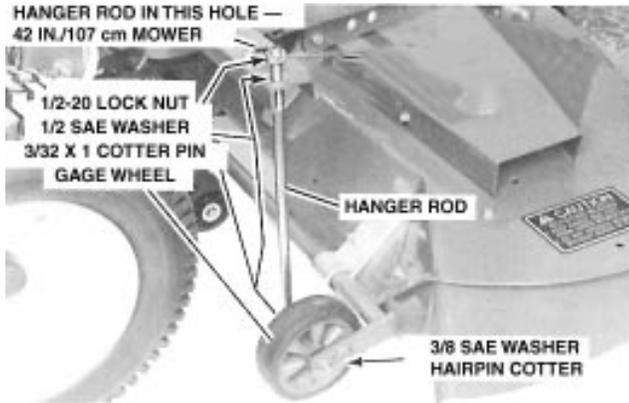


Figure 11

17. Grease the bushings in the wheels and swivels with #2 multipurpose lithium grease applied with a pressure grease gun.
18. Center the mower carrier over the mower.
19. Slide a  $\frac{3}{32}$ " x 1" cotter pin into the hole at the bend of one of the L-shaped hanger rods and slide a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " washer on the rod in front of the cotter pin (Fig. 12).
20. Slide a gage wheel onto the hanger rod and push the end of the rod through the gage wheel arm (Fig. 12).
21. Secure the hanger rod to the gage wheel arm with a  $\frac{3}{8}$ " washer and a  $1\text{-}\frac{7}{8}$ " hairpin cotter (Fig. 12).
22. Slide the top of the hanger rod through the appropriate hole in the pivot frame and secure it with a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " washer and a  $\frac{1}{2}$ "-20 locknut (Fig. 12).

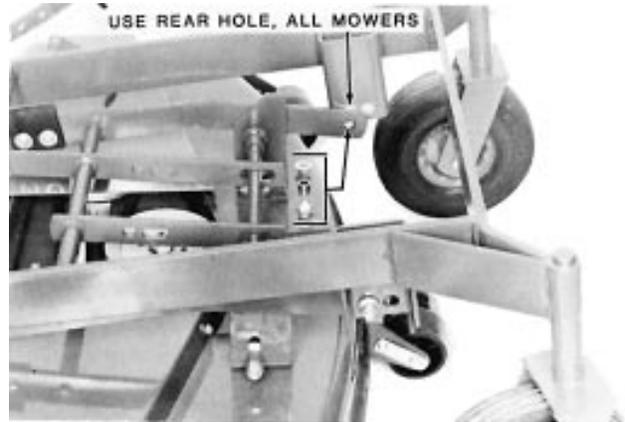


**Figure 12**

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23. Repeat steps 18 through 21 for the other gage wheel.

24. Attach the front of the mower to the main frame, using the hardware that held the hitch shaft (Fig. 13).



**Figure 13**

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## Attaching the Carrier to the Tractor

1. Park the tractor on a flat surface, disengage the power take off (PTO), set the parking brake, and turn the ignition key to "OFF" to stop the engine. Remove the key.
2. Place the mower's rear anti-scalp rollers on 3–4" thick wood blocks in front of the tractor. (Fig. 14).

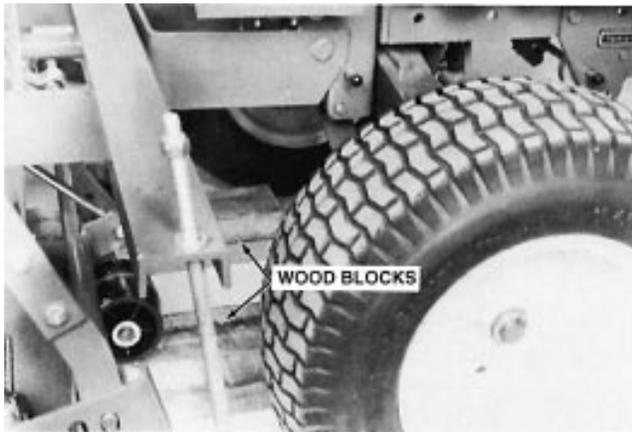


Figure 14

3. Open the front hitch, roll the mower/carrier assembly back, and lock the hitch frame into the front hitch.

## Installing the Mid-Mount Idler and Belt

1. Insert the mid-mount idler shaft into the mid tractor hitch with the idler pulley on the right side of the tractor and lock the hitch (Fig. 15).
2. Secure the spring bracket to the tractor frame with a 3/8"–16 x 1" bolt and locknut (Fig. 15). Tighten the bolt so the spring bracket is still free to move.

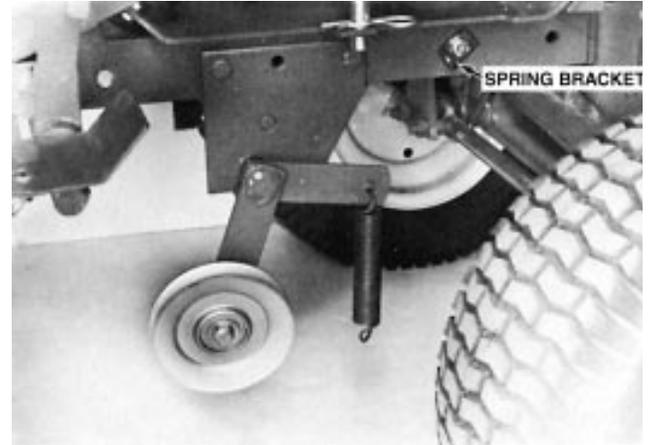


Figure 15

3. Remove the two wing nuts and belt cover from the tractor (Fig. 16) and store the cover and hardware in a safe place.

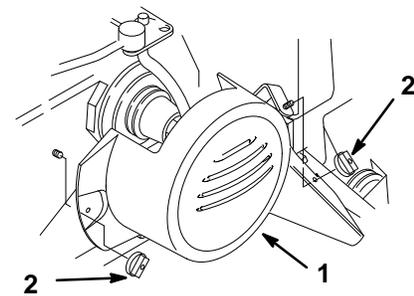


Figure 16

1. Belt cover
2. Wing nut

4. Roll the front tire over one strand of the belt so the belt encircles the tire axle.

**Note:** If you are installing a 42" mower on a tractor with a single cylinder engine, use the belt supplied with the carrier frame; otherwise, use the belt supplied with the mower

5. Remove hairpin cotters from trunnion and bottom of yoke (Fig. 17).
6. Unlatch and remove locking clevis pin that secures yoke assembly to clutch shaft. Pivot yoke out and forward to remove from clutch shaft and engagement plate (Fig. 17).

7. Place belt in inside pulley groove (Fig. 17).
8. Assemble yoke and engagement plate and attach locking clevis pin, trunnion and hairpin cotter to secure (Fig. 17).

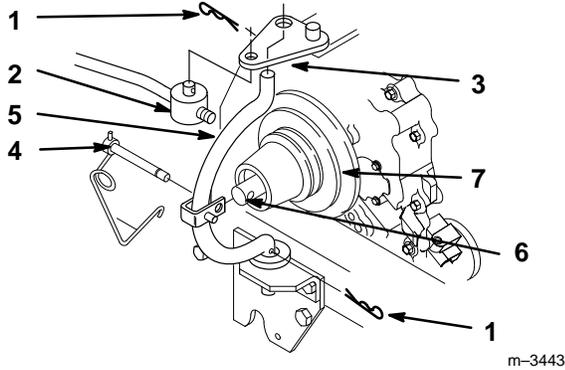


Figure 17

- |                       |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1. Hairpin cotter     | 5. Yoke          |
| 2. Trunnion           | 6. Clutch shaft  |
| 3. Engagement plate   | 7. Inside groove |
| 4. Locking clevis pin |                  |

9. Attach the idler spring to the spring bracket.
10. Install the drive belt the rest of the way as shown in Fig. 18 and then loop it around the mower drive pulley.
11. If the nut on the bolt securing the bottom of the hood is located outside of the hood, remove the bolt and install it with the nut on the inside (Fig. 18).
12. If the belt contacts the rear corner of the yoke bracket, cut off the rear corner (Fig. 18).

13. If the belt contacts the corner of the hood, bend the corner of the hood away from the belt (Fig. 18).
14. If the belt doesn't track well between the idler pulley and the PTO drive pulley, remove one or both of the washers located between the idler pulley and the lower bracket (Fig. 18).

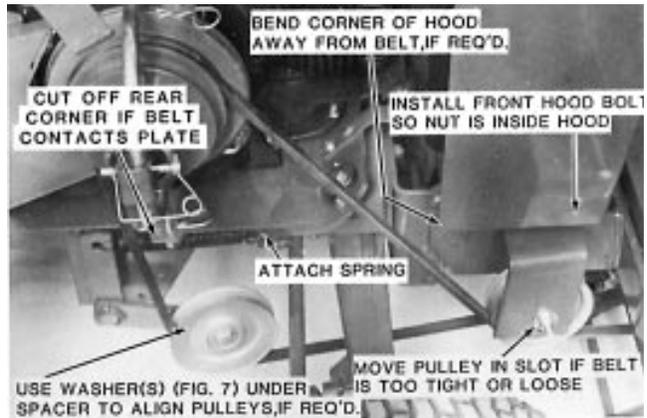


Figure 18

## Setting the Original Height Adjustment

1. Park the tractor on a flat surface, disengage the power take off (PTO), set the parking brake, and turn the ignition key to "OFF" to stop the engine. Remove the key.
2. Tighten or loosen the nut on the top of each hanger rod until there are 3 inches from the center of each gage wheel to the ground (Fig. 19).

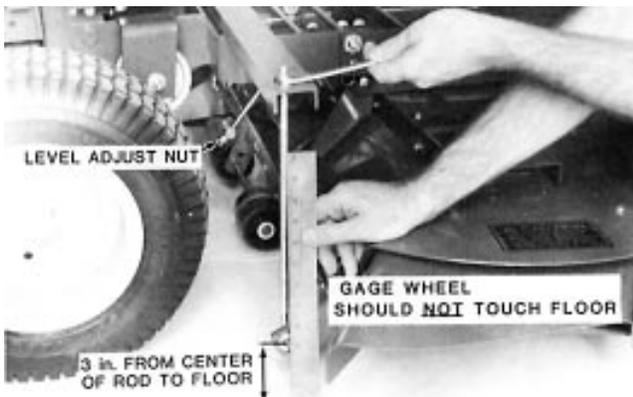


Figure 19

3. Complete the front to rear level adjustment as described in the mower operator's manual.

## Removing the Carrier

1. Park the tractor on a flat surface, disengage the power take off (PTO), set the parking brake, and turn the ignition key to "OFF" to stop the engine. Remove the key.
2. Remove hairpin cotters from trunnion and bottom of yoke (Fig. 20).
3. Unlatch and remove locking clevis pin that secures yoke assembly to clutch shaft. Pivot yoke out and forward to remove from clutch shaft and engagement plate (Fig. 20).
4. Remove belt from pulley (Fig. 20).

5. Assemble yoke and engagement plate and attach locking clevis pin, trunnion and hairpin cotters to secure (Fig. 20).

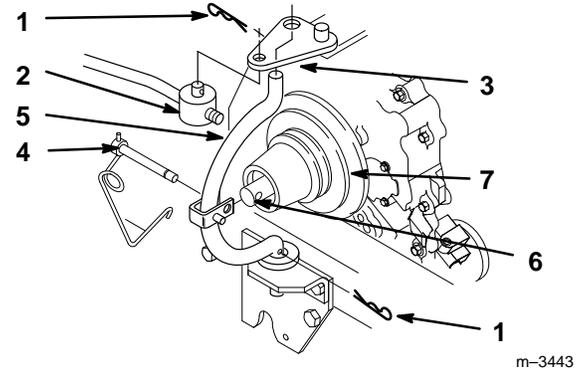


Figure 20

- |                       |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1. Hairpin cotter     | 5. Yoke          |
| 2. Trunnion           | 6. Clutch shaft  |
| 3. Engagement plate   | 7. Inside groove |
| 4. Locking clevis pin |                  |

6. Install belt cover (Fig. 16).
7. Remove the mid mount idler bracket and shaft.
8. Place the mower's rear anti-scalp rollers on 3–4" thick wood blocks in front of the tractor. (Fig. 14).
9. Open the front hitch and roll the mower/carrier assembly away from the tractor.

# Operation

Using a mower with the carrier is similar to using it in the mid-mount position. Therefore, you should read and follow the operation and safety guidelines explained in the Operator's Manual for your mower.

## Operating Tips

### Turning

The mower may leave more uncut grass when turning because it travels at a greater speed in a longer arc than when mounted in the mid-mount position. Therefore, it may be necessary to slow down before entering a turn to maintain the quality of cut.

Also, the tractor is longer with this attachment, so you should be careful when turning in enclosed areas.

### Trimming

Use extra care when trimming. Travel at a slower speed so you can watch for obstructions on which the mower can get caught.

### Terrain

Avoid using the attachment in areas with deep dips as it can get caught on the far edge of a dip and dig into the ground.

# Maintenance

## Service Interval Chart

Service Operation	Each Use	50 Hours	Storage Service	Notes
Belts – check for wear/cracks		X		
Mower and carrier – clean	X		X	
Lubricate bushings on wheels and swivels		X	X	
Chipped Surfaces – paint			X	

## Cleaning Mower and Carrier

For optimal cutting performance, the mower and carrier should be kept clean.

1. With a garden hose, spray off the carrier frame.
2. On a 42" mower, remove the drive belt from the mower drive pulley.
3. Remove the L-shaped hanger rods and gage wheels from the gage wheel arms (Fig. 21).

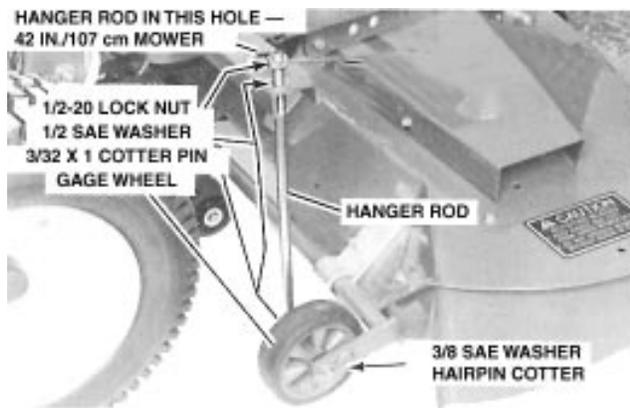


Figure 21

4. Remove the clevis pins securing the main frame to the pivot frame (Fig. 22).
5. Swing the mower up into a vertical position (Fig. 22).

6. Replace the clevis pins in the holes in the main frame to lock the mower in the upright position (Fig. 22).



Figure 22

7. With a garden hose, spray out the inside of the mower housing.
8. Remove the clevis pins from the mower housing and swing the mower back to the horizontal position.
9. Replace the clevis pins.
10. Install the hanger rods and gage wheels in the gage wheel arms.
11. On a 42" mower, replace the drive belt on the mower drive pulley.

## Greasing and Lubrication

Grease the bushings in the wheels and swivels with #2 multipurpose lithium grease applied with a pressure grease gun.

## Storage

1. Clean the mower and carrier. Refer to Cleaning the Mower and Carrier, page 13.
2. Remove the mower and carrier from the tractor, Refer to Removing the Carrier, page 11.
3. Check and tighten all bolts, nuts and screws. Repair or replace any part that is damaged or defective.
4. Paint all scratched or bare metal surfaces. Paint is available from your Authorized Service Dealer.
5. Complete any storage maintenance described for the mower in the mower Operator's Manual.
6. Store the mower and carrier in a clean, dry garage or storage area. Cover them to protect them and keep them clean.