Striping Kit

for 42in and 50in Mowers for Zero Turn Riding Mower

Model No. 114-8545

Installation Instructions

Installation

Loose Parts

Use the chart below to verify that all parts have been shipped.

Procedure	Description	Qty.	Use
2	Brackets	5	Install the striping kit.
	Rubber caps	5	
	Speed nut	5	
	Wiper	1	
	Bolts (1/4 x 3/4 inch)	10	
	Lock nuts (1/4 inch)	10	
	Washer	5	
	Stabilizer plate	1	

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Removing the Mower Deck

No Parts Required

Procedure

1. Park the machine on a level surface and disengage the blade control switch.
2. Move the motion control levers outward to the park position, stop the engine, remove the key, and wait for all moving parts to stop before leaving the operating position.
3. Remove the mower deck from the machine. Refer to the Removing the Mower section in the *Operator's Manual* or the appropriate section of the *Service Manual*.

The spring is under tension when installed and can cause personal injury.

Be careful when removing the mower belt and deck.

4. Slide the mower deck out from underneath the machine.
5. Remove the deck spring from the idler arm.

Important: Make note of the deck spring orientation. It must be installed in this same hook end orientation.

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Installing the Striping kit

Parts needed for this procedure:

5	Brackets
5	Rubber caps
5	Speed nut
1	Wiper
10	Bolts (1/4 x 3/4 inch)
10	Lock nuts (1/4 inch)
5	Washer
1	Stabilizer plate

Installing the Stripping Kit on 42 Inch Decks

1. Assemble three brackets as shown in (Figure 1) using three rubber caps, three speed nuts and three brackets.

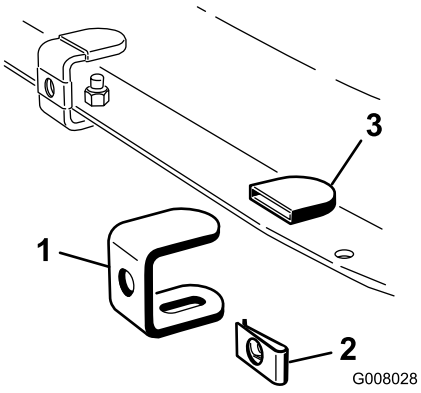

Figure 1

1. Bracket
2. Speed nut
3. Rubber cap

2. Clean the back end of the mower deck
3. Install the bracket to the holes shown in (Figure 2) using the three bolts (1/4 x 3/4 inch) and three lock nuts (1/4 inch). Hold the rubber cap of the bracket tightly against the back of the deck and tighten. Use the outside holes on the either end of the back of the deck.

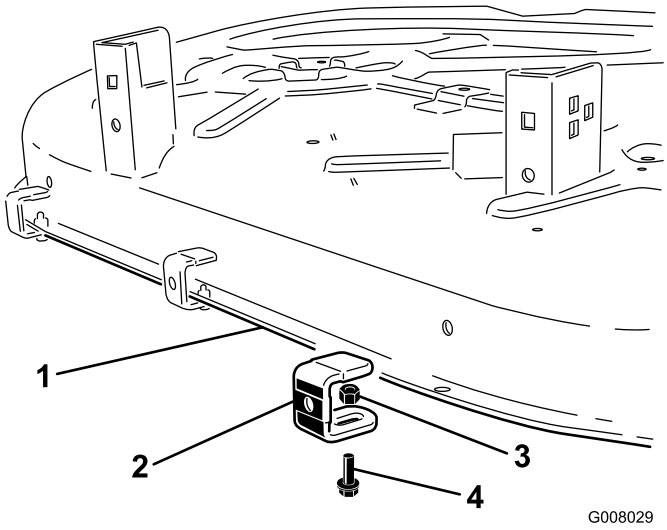

Figure 2

1. Deck
2. Bracket
3. Lock nut (1/4 inch)
4. Bolt (1/4 x 3/4 inch)

4. Cut the wiper at the notch as shown below with a suitable tool such as tin snips or retractable blade. Use caution when cutting through the tough material (Figure 3).

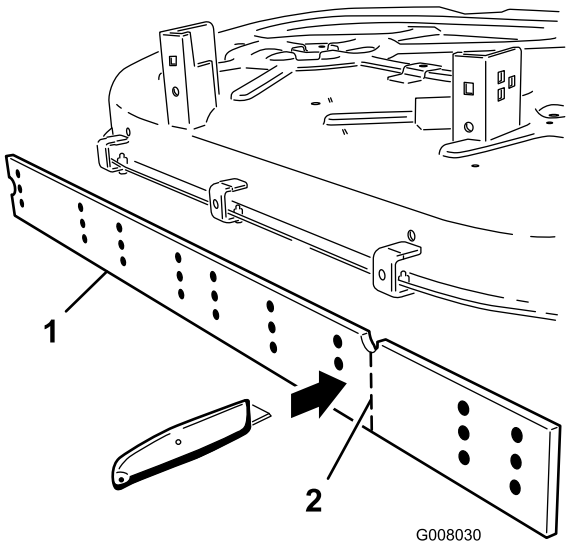

Figure 3

1. Wiper
2. Notch, cut here

5. Install the stabilizer plate to the wiper at the point shown in Figure 4 using 2 bolts (1/4 x 3/4 inch), two washers, and two lock nuts (1/4 inch).

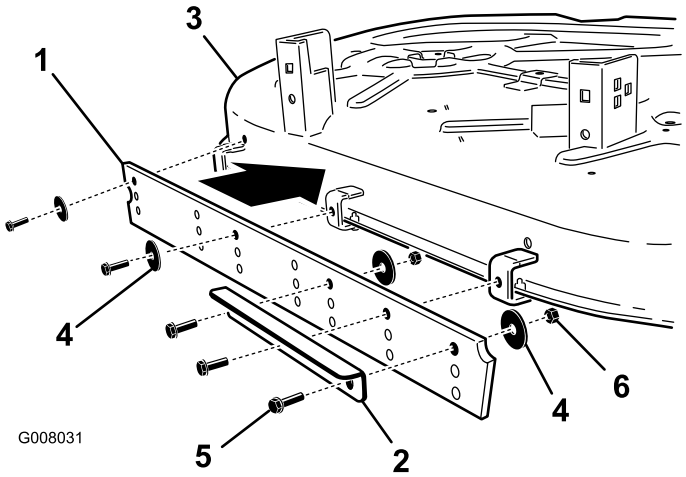

Figure 4

1. Wiper, cut for 42 inch deck
2. Stabilizer plate
3. Deck
4. Washer
5. Bolt (1/4 x 3/4 inch)
6. Lock nut (1/4 inch)

6. Install the wiper assembly to the brackets.

   Note: Reading the information included in *Operation* can help in choosing which set of holes, and in turn wiper height, to install wiper assembly at.

   Use three bolts (1/4 x 3/4 inch) and two washers to secure the wiper to the deck.

Installing the Stripping Kit on 50 Inch Decks

1. Assemble five brackets as shown in (Figure 5) using five sets of rubber caps, speed nuts and brackets.

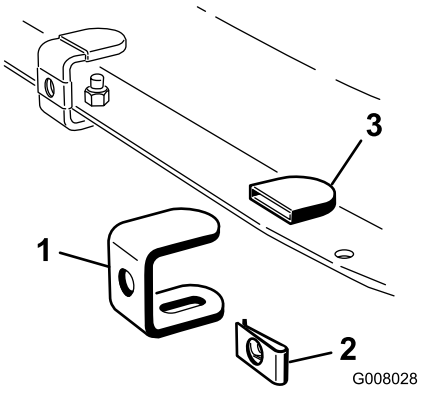

Figure 5

1. Bracket
2. Speed nut
3. Rubber cap

2. Clean the back end of the mower deck
3. Install the assembled brackets to the holes shown in (Figure 6) using the five bolts (1/4 x 3/4 inch) and five lock nuts (1/4 inch). Hold the rubber cap of the bracket tightly against the back of the deck and tighten. Use the left hole for the middle bracket.

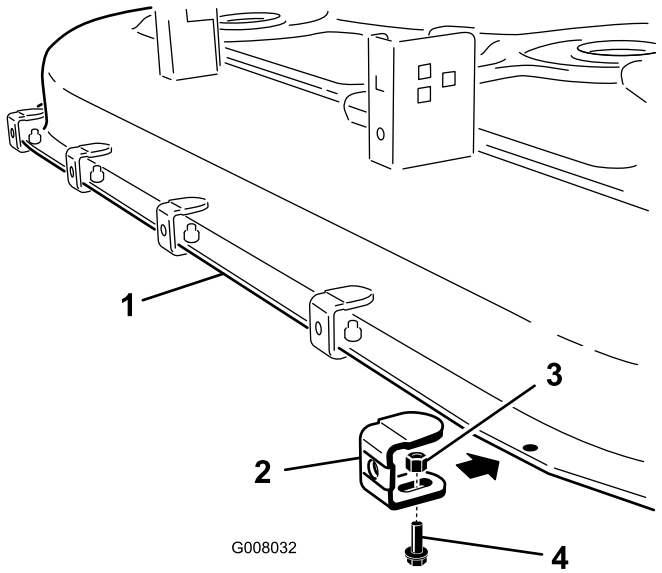

Figure 6

1. Deck
2. Bracket
3. Bolt (1/4 x 3/4 inch)
4. Lock nut (1/4 inch)

4. Install the wiper to the brackets (Figure 7).

   Note: Reading the information included in *Operation* can help in choosing which set of holes, and in turn wiper height, to install wiper assembly at.

   Use five bolts (1/4 x 3/4 inch) and five washers to secure the wiper to the deck.

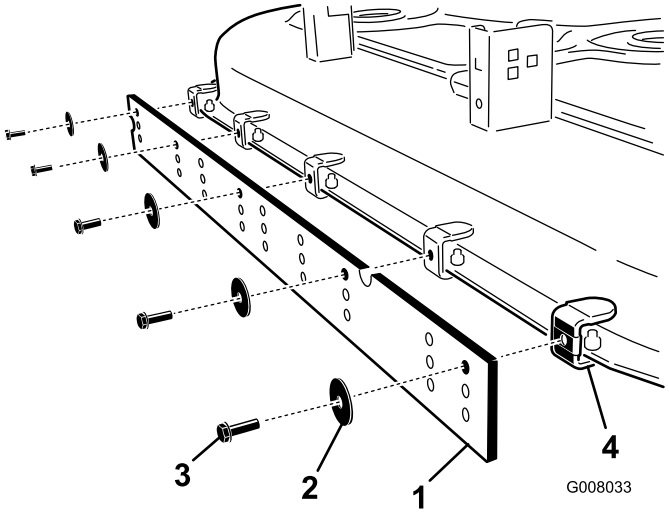

Figure 7

1. Wiper
2. Washer
3. Bolt (1/4 x 3/4 inch)

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Installing the Mower

No Parts Required

Procedure

Note: Squealing when the belt is rotating, blades slipping when cutting grass, frayed belt edges, burn marks, and cracks are signs of a worn mower belt. Replace the mower belt if any of these conditions are evident.

1. Slide the mower under the machine.
2. Install the mower belt, if removed. Refer to the Replacing the Mower Belt section in the *Operator's Manual*.
3. Install the mower deck to the machine. Refer to the Installing the Mower section in the *Operator's Manual* or the appropriate section of the *Service Manual*

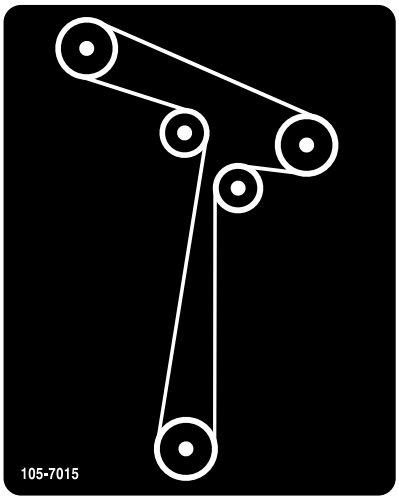

Figure 8
Belt Routing, 42 inch Deck

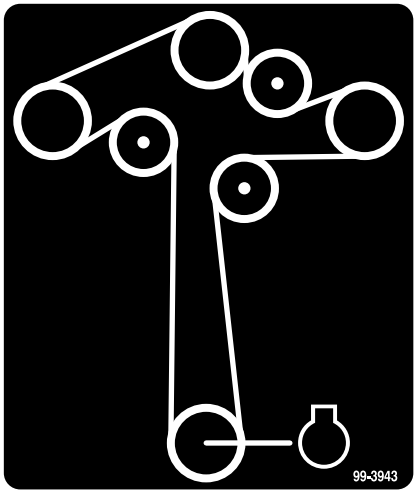

Figure 9
Belt Routing, 50 inch Deck

Operation

Adjusting the Height

Important: Applying excessive downward pressure with the striping bar may damage turf and the striping kit.

Important: Raise the mower deck with the striping kit installed to the transport position when not in use to avoid damaging the wiper.

Important: Avoid obstacles that can damage the kit. Temporarily lift the deck to transport position when performing turns or moving in reverse.

Best results from normal striping are achieved with the bottom edge of the wiper is set at 1/2-1/4 inch below the bottom of the deck.

Height adjustments for the striping bar can be made with the position of the wiper. There are three sets of holes to raise or lower the wiper. The mower deck can also be lower or raised to the adjust the wiper height; however, this will also affect the height-of-cut.

Avoid close trimming with the striping kit installed to reduce damage to landscaping and the striping bar. Replace the wiper yearly, or more often as wear requires.

Operating Tips

Effective striping is influenced by grass condition and grass type

- Limp grass where wheel tracks are very visible is usually good for striping.
- Stiff grass where wheel tracks are less visible will usually produce poor striping.
- Cool season grass types found in northern areas are usually good for striping.
- Warm season grass types found in southern areas will usually produce less pronounced striping.
- Transition zone grasses found in the narrow belt region can produce good striping in some areas and some portions of the growing season, while producing poor striping in other areas or portions of the season.
- Some grass types produce better striping contrast when mowing short. Other grass types or moisture content of the grass can provide better contrast when mowing at a long/tall height of cut. Experiment with what works best in your situation.

Striping visibility is affected by the sun position

This is how the light is reflected on the grass.

- Mowing patterns which generally run east–west will have a greater contrast than north–south patterns.
- The striping pattern contrast is less visible around noon, and is more visible in mornings and afternoons.

Striping visibility is affected by your position

The grass which is bent towards you will appear darker, and grass which is bent away from you will appear lighter.

- Mowing patterns which generally run along a road will have greater contrast when viewed approaching or leaving the property. The contrast of striping will be less visible when looking across the mowing direction.
- If the property has a focal point, or a viewing location, it can be beneficial to mow in a pattern that is generally to and from the observation point.

Lawn condition affects striping visibility

- Large flat areas usually provide better striping contrast than on slopes or areas with a lot of trimming and edging.
- Mowing in morning dew can produce good striping contrast.
- Double cut mowing, and mowing a second pass at a 1/2 inch lower height of cut can produce good striping contrast.

Mowing mode can affect striping contrast

- Side dispersal of clippings can hide striping, reducing the contrast effect.
- Bagging can display heavy wheel tracks, reducing the effect of striping.
- Mulching will often display excellent contrast, enhancing the effect of striping.

The landscape can promote or hinder striping

- The mowing area size has an effect on the final appearance. Large areas can look better when mowed with a large mower. Small areas may not look right when cut with a large mower.

- Large areas with occasional trees or other obstructions will often look best when the mowing pattern appears to go through the obstruction. For example, it can look best for a pattern to match and continue on the far side of a small pond. A different cross cut pattern on the far side of a pond may not be visible.
- Some areas look best with long straight lines of striping mowing pattern, aligned with a property edge. Some areas look best with a diamond pattern, where neither straight line is aligned with the property edge. Properties with rolling hillsides or ponds can look best with a flowing curves striping pattern. A distinctive feature like a small pond can be highlighted and enhanced by a radial pattern or by a ring pattern.

Some lawns need to be *trained* to show a distinctive striping contrast

- On a new property during weeks 1 and 2, you may need to follow the exact same pattern and direction in the same wheel tracks. This will begin training the grass to bend in the desired direction.
- On week 3 use a cross–grain striping pattern.
- On weeks 4 and 5 follow with repeating the original pattern. After the primary striping pattern grain is established, you may alternate the pattern each week to establish a checkerboard or a plaid style of mowing pattern.
- Do not mow in the exact same pattern every week. This will cause compaction in wheel tracks, and may produce ruts or depressions along the wheel tracks.

Turning while using the striping kit

- Raise the deck when turning. Striping is generally not enhanced by end turns.
- Raising the deck will reduce confusing the pattern at the ends of the pattern.

Driving the machine to different cutting areas

- Raise the deck and drive along a previous cut path to transport from one area of the property to another section.
- A nice striping pattern can be ruined by driving across the pattern.

Follow all general mowing common practices

- It is usually best to first mow the perimeter to establish a boundary.
- When side discharging, the clippings should be directed away from walks, drives, flower beds, buildings and vehicles. If the discharge throws clippings a long distance, mow additional passes to avoid unwanted cleanup of clippings.
- Avoid excessive trimming. Driving back and forth, frequent forward and reverse maneuvers around an obstacle will compress the grass and disturb the professional appearance of a nice job.
- Follow all safe mowing practices as describe in the *Operator's Manual.* Do not let the striping pattern cause you to mow into a hazardous situation.

Notes: