



MODEL NO. 51255 - 2000001 THRU 3900001 & UP  
 MODEL NO. 51325 - 2000001 THRU 3900001 & UP  
 MODEL NO. 51442 - 2000001 THRU 3900001 & UP

## OPERATOR'S MANUAL

### ELECTRIC TRIMMERS

10 Inch, 12 Inch And 14 Inch Cutting Widths

## IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

### WARNING

To assure maximum safety, best performance, and to gain knowledge of the product, it is essential that you or any other operator of the trimmer read and understand the contents of this manual before the motor is ever started. Pay particular attention to the safety alert symbol  which means CAUTION, WARNING, OR DANGER — “personal safety instruction.” Read and understand the instruction because it has to do with safety. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH INSTRUCTION MAY RESULT IN PERSONAL INJURY.

## SAVE THESE INSTRUCTIONS FOR FUTURE REFERENCE

1. Read and understand the contents of this manual before operating the trimmer. Become familiar with all controls and know how to stop quickly.
2. Keep everyone, especially children and pets, away from area of operation.
3. Never allow children to operate trimmer. It is not a toy. Never allow adults to operate unit without first reading Operator's Manual.
4. Always wear safety goggles or other suitable eye protection.
5. Avoid Dangerous Environment—Never operate the trimmer in wet or damp conditions.
6. Never use trimmer in the rain.
7. Inspect area thoroughly where trimmer will be used. Pick up any debris or objects that could be entangled in trimmer or picked up by trimmer and thrown. Keep area of operation clear of all persons, particularly small children and pets.
8. Dress properly—Do not wear loose clothing or jewelry which can be caught in moving parts. Always wear substantial footwear and long pants. Use of rubber gloves is recommended.
9. Use the right appliance—Do not use the appliance for any job except that for which it was intended such as cutting grass and small weeds.
10. **WARNING**—To reduce the risk of electric shock, use only an extension cord suitable for outdoor use. Replace damaged extension cord immediately.
11. Extension cord—To prevent disconnection of the power supply cord from the extension cord during operation, properly connect extension cord prior to operating.
12. Avoid unintentional starting. Be sure switch is off when plugging in. Do not carry plugged-in trimmer with finger on switch.
13. Do not abuse cord. Never yank cord to disconnect from receptacle. Keep cord away from heat, oil, and sharp edges. Replace damaged cords.
14. Do not force the trimmer. It operates better and safer at the rate for which it was designed.
15. Use only in daylight or with good artificial light. Always be sure of your footing. Keep a firm hold on the handle and walk, never run.
16. Stop the motor and unplug the supply cord whenever you leave the trimmer, before cleaning the housing, and when making any repairs or inspections.
17. When not in use, store your trimmer in a dry place; high or locked up out of the reach of children.
18. Keep all fasteners tight to insure the trimmer is in safe working condition.
19. Never operate without factory installed guards or other protective safety devices in place.
20. Do not put hands or feet near or under rotating parts. Keep clear at all times.
21. If the trimmer should start to vibrate abnormally, stop the motor and check immediately for the cause. Vibration is generally a warning of trouble.
22. Do not operate your Toro trimmer after it has been dropped or damaged. Return it to your nearest authorized service dealer for inspection and repair.
23. When servicing use only identical replacement parts. Replace or repair damaged cords.

# **SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS**

**24. Don't Overreach**—Keep proper footing and balance at all times when operating the trimmer.

**25. Maintain Appliance With Care**—Keep cutting head and motor housing clean for best performance and to reduce the risk of injury. Follow General Maintenance Instructions on page 8.

**26. CAUTION**—Cutting knife on grass shield is sharp and care should be taken when cleaning and handling.

**27. EXTENSION CORD REQUIREMENTS**—Use an extension cord suitable for outdoor use and one that complies with the requirements specified in the International Electric Code. Make sure your cord is in good condition; if damaged, replace. Use a cord that is large enough to carry the current the trimmer will draw. Figure 1 shows the correct size cord to use for trimmers of 6 amps or less.

**Note:** When in doubt about what size cord to use, choose the next heavier gauge. The smaller the gauge number, the heavier the cord. An undersized cord causes a drop in line voltage which results in a loss of power and overheating.

See Figures 10 & 11 for proper cord connection.

**EXTENSION CORD CHART**

| If length of extension cord is less than or equal to: | 100 ft. | 150 ft. |
|-------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------|
| Assure wire size gauge (A.W.G.) in cord is:           | 16      | 14      |

**Figure 1**

**Note:** Use of an extension cord over 150 feet is not recommended.

## **ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS**

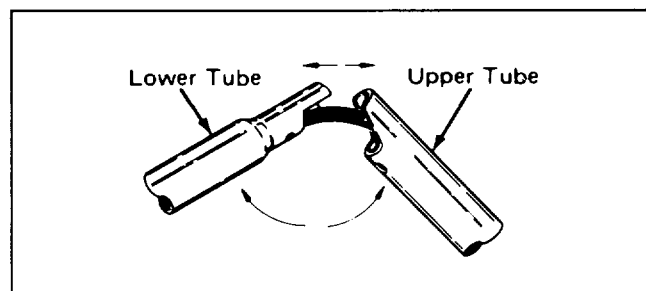
### **SECURE UPPER AND LOWER TUBES**

**1.** Remove and discard shipping wire secured to upper and lower handle tubes.

 **CAUTION**

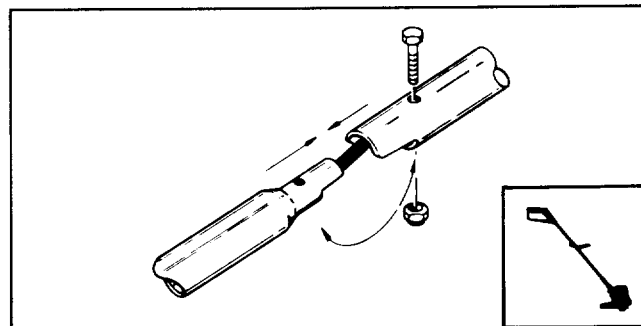
- Never assemble trimmer if wiring is damaged.**
- Damaged wiring could cause a shock or fire.**
- Thoroughly inspect the open internal wiring (Fig. 2) before assembling trimmer. If wiring is damaged, do not assemble or plug in trimmer. Contact your TORO Authorized Service Dealer.**

**2.** Pivot tube ends until aligned (Fig. 2).



**Figure 2**

**3.** Slide lower tube into upper tube and align screw holes (Fig. 3). Check alignment of handgrip and housing.



**Figure 3**

**4.** Secure with capscrew and locknut and tighten until all play between tubes is eliminated (Fig. 4).

 **CAUTION**

- Internal wiring could become crimped or torn when installing capscrew.**
- Damaged internal wiring may cause personal injury or damage to machine.**
- Be sure internal wiring does not interfere with installation of capscrew. Use the shipping wire or another blunt object such as a punch to carefully route internal wiring away from aligned holes.**

# ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS

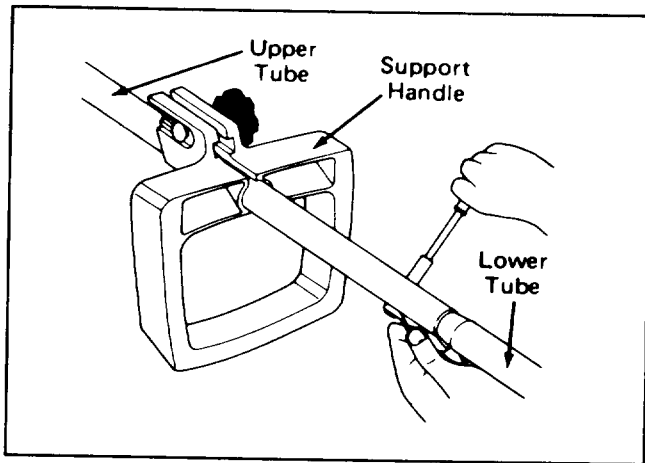


Figure 4

5. Loosely secure support handle to tube with carriage bolt and knob.
6. Support handle may now be adjusted to desired operating position by sliding handle to desired height and tightening knob (Fig. 4).

## INSTALLING GRASS SHIELD (Assembly not required on Model 51255)

### CAUTION

- Cutting knife on grass shield is sharp.
- Contact with cutting knife could cause personal injury.
- Be careful when handling shield. Avoid contact with knife blade.

1. Place grass shield over trimmer head assembly (Fig. 5).

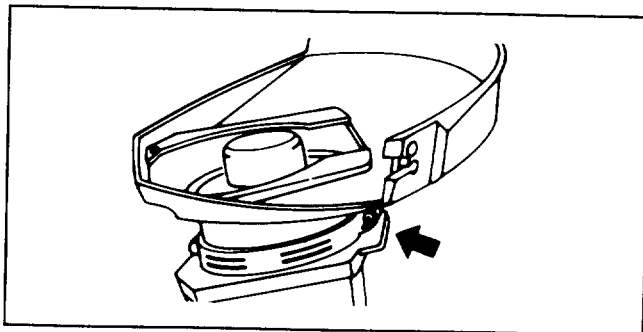


Figure 5

2. Tilt grass shield so that back side of shield is under locking tab (Fig. 6).

3. Push front side of grass shield down and align screw holes. Tighten with screws (Fig. 7).

4. Remove tape from cut-off blade.

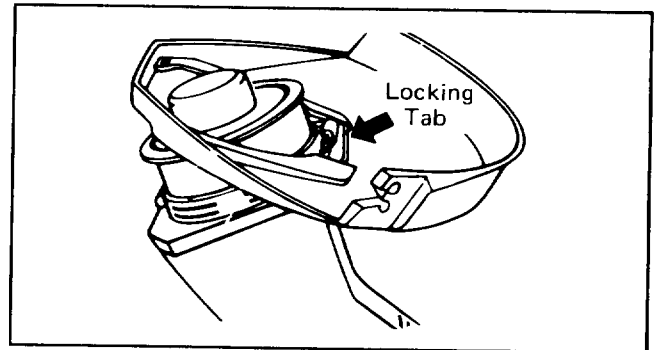


Figure 6

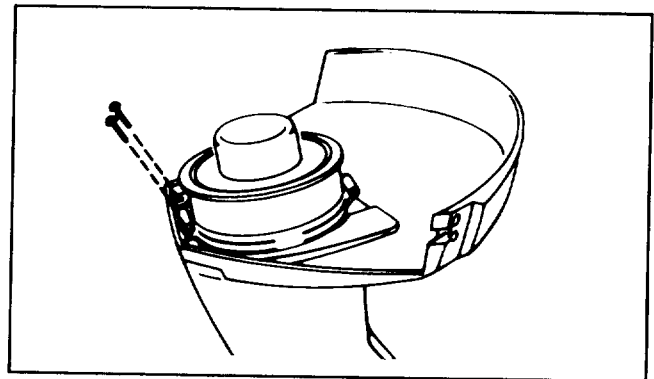


Figure 7

### CAUTION

- Objects can be thrown by the trimmer while it is in operation.
- Thrown objects could cause injury to the operator or bystanders.
- Always wear safety goggles or other suitable eye protection, long pants and shoes while operating trimmer.
- Keep people and pets away from trimming area.

# BEFORE OPERATING

## CUTTING LINE

**Note:** The cutting line for your trimmer is a special monofilament line. Your trimmer comes complete with a supply of this line already wound onto the spool.

1. To avoid line tangle during shipment, the tip of the monofilament line has been taped to the head assembly. The tape must be removed before operation (Fig. 8).
2. A view hole in the spool cap is provided to show how much line remains on the spool without removing spool (Fig. 8). (View hole not included on model 51255.)

### CAUTION

- Cutting knife on grass shield is sharp.
- Contact with cutting knife could cause personal injury.
- Be careful when handling shield. Avoid contact with knife blade.

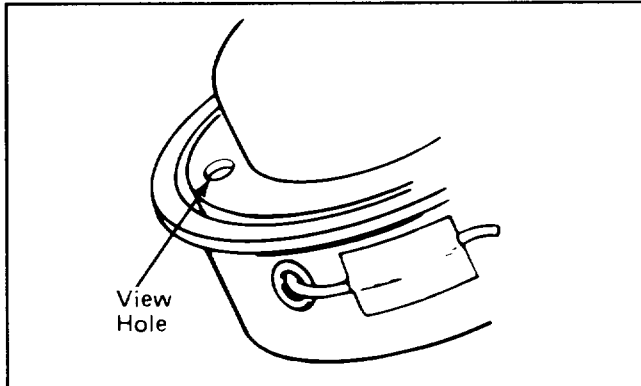


Figure 8

3. After each use, either retape or loop the line through the eyelet (Fig. 9) to prevent unraveling.

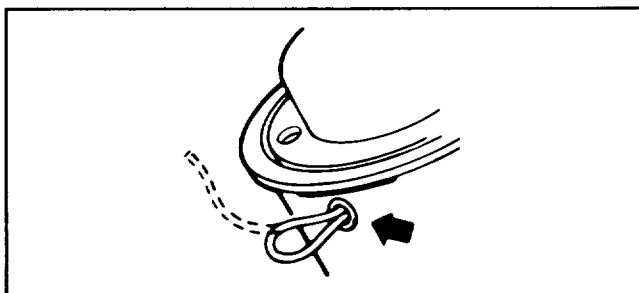


Figure 9

## SECURING PIGTAIL POWER CORD

**Note:** The proper extension cord is a requirement for safe and efficient use of your Toro trimmer. Use only a UL listed extension cord recommended for outdoor use.

1. Secure a suitable extension cord in cord lock as shown in Figures 10 & 11.

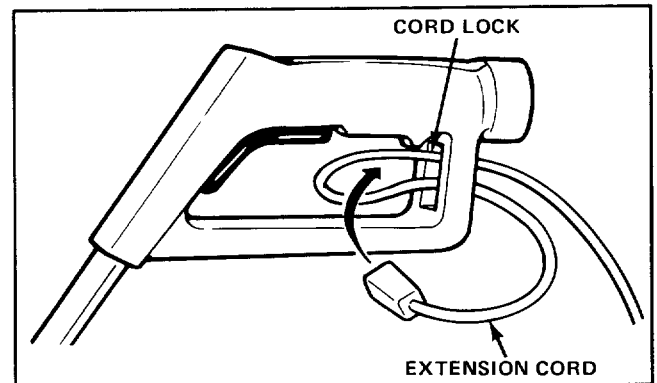


Figure 10

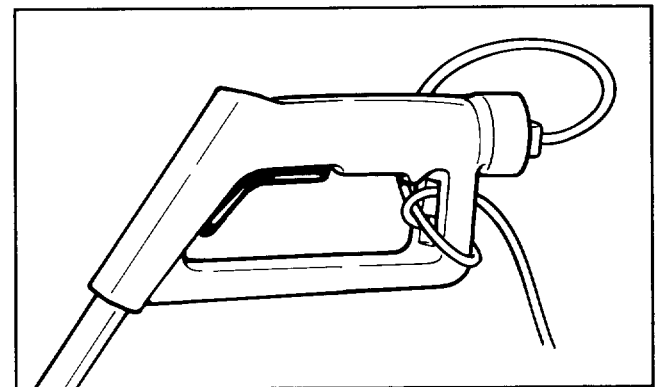


Figure 11

### CAUTION

- Never use an electrical cord that is damaged.
- A damaged electrical cord could cause a shock or fire.
- Thoroughly inspect electrical cord before using trimmer. If cord is damaged, do not operate trimmer. Replace or repair damaged cord immediately. Contact your TORO service dealer for assistance.

# OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS



## CAUTION

- Objects can be thrown by the trimmer while it is in operation.
- Thrown objects could cause injury to the operator or bystanders.
- Always wear safety goggles or other suitable eye protection, long pants and shoes while operating trimmer.
- Keep people and pets away from trimming area.

Your trimmer will cut grass and small weeds in difficult and hard to reach places. However, you will most likely experience some line breakage during your first few uses. As you learn the trimming techniques, you will be able to cut areas around trees, shrubs, foundation walls, fences, sidewalks, patios, etc., with minimal line wear or line breakage.

1. Inspect area to be trimmed for any wire, cord, or string-like matter which could become entangled in the rotating line. Also pick up any objects or debris that could be thrown by the trimmer.
2. Lay out the extension cord so that it won't be in your way and to prevent kinking or tangling.
3. Trim only when grass and weeds are dry.
4. Slowly move unit in and out of area being cut, maintaining unit at desired cutting height. This can be either a forward-backward or side-to-side motion as indicated (Figs. 12 & 13).

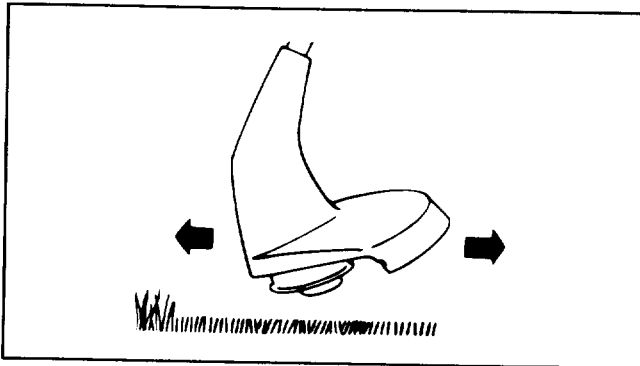


Figure 12

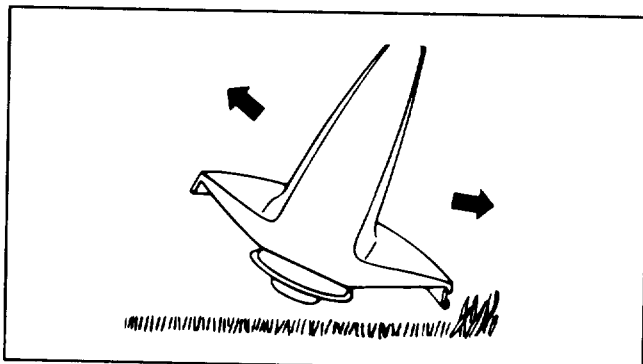


Figure 13

5. Grass in excess of 8 inches tall or small weeds should be cut by working from the top to the bottom in small increments to avoid premature line wear.

6. Whenever possible, cut to your left. When cutting to the left, the unit's cutting efficiency is somewhat better since the line is contacting the grass as soon as it leaves the guard, and the clippings are moving away from the operator.

7. **DO NOT FORCE THE UNIT.** Allow the very tip of the nylon line to do the cutting (especially along walls) (Fig. 14). Cutting with more than the tip will reduce cutting efficiency and overload the motor.

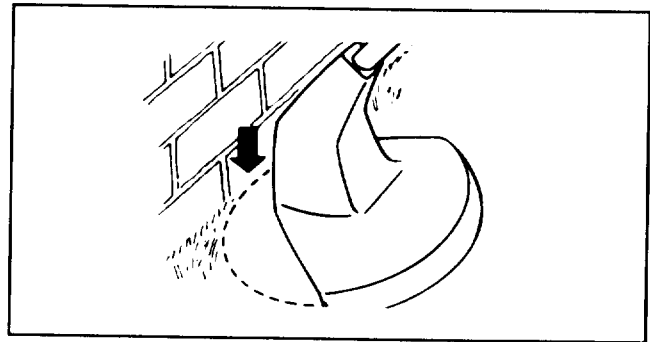


Figure 14

The tip of the cutting line will wear during use and cause a reduction in the cutting swath. If the line is not advanced occasionally, it will wear down to the drum eyelet. When the trimmer is stopped the line will tend to **relax** and **may retract into the drum**. Should this occur, be sure to replace the cutting line in the proper position before restarting the trimmer (page 7, #3) or the line may tangle around the drum.

8. The life of your cutting line is dependent upon following the preceding trimming techniques, as well as what is being cut, and where the cutting is being done. For example, line wears faster when trimming against a foundation wall as opposed to trimming around a tree.

Some line breakage will occur from moving unit too fast, from entanglement with foreign matter, from normal line fatigue, and from attempting to cut thick, stalky weeds in excess of unit's capability. As cutting line wears, for best performance, lengthen as indicated in Lengthening Cutting Line procedure.

9. **Never drag the trimmer spool cap on the ground while trimming (Fig. 15).** This causes motor overload and spool cap wear.

# OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

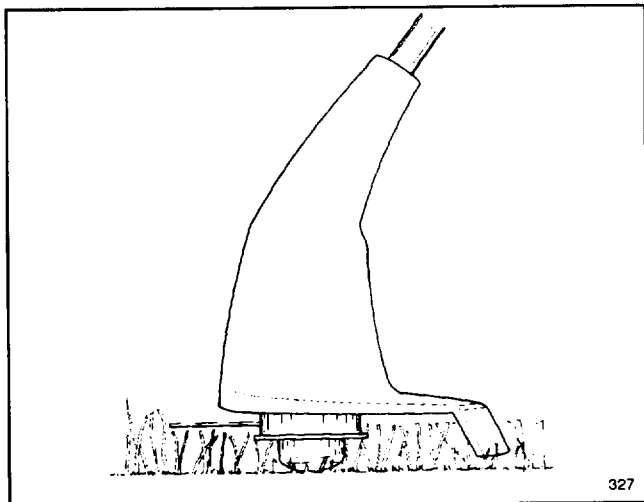


Figure 15

10. After each use, either retape or loop the line through the eyelet (Fig. 16) to prevent unraveling.

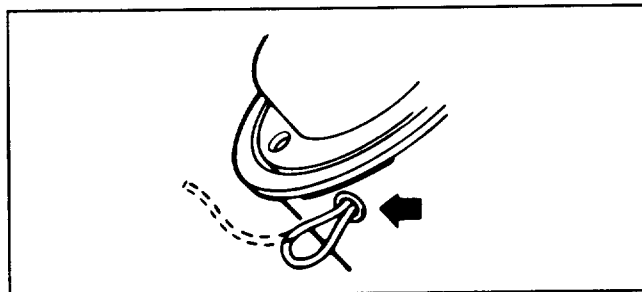


Figure 16

## LENGTHENING CUTTING LINE

1. To lengthen line, firmly tap spool on the ground while the motor continues to run. The line will be fed from the spool and cut off to the proper length by the cutting knife attached to the shield (Fig. 17).

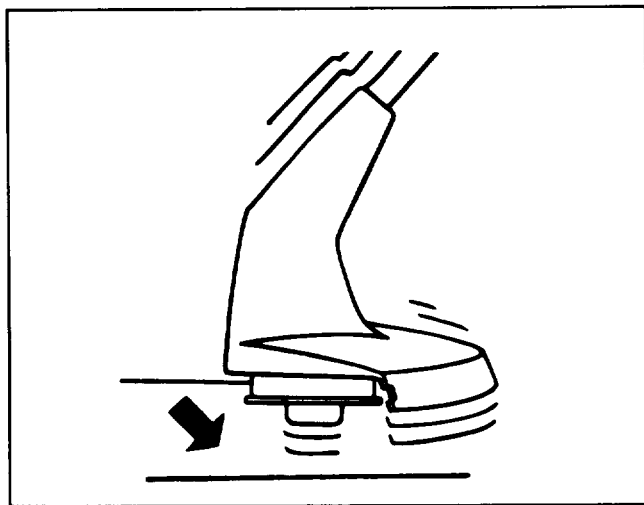


Figure 17

Remember to keep the trimmer 'on' while lengthening the line. Just tap the trimmer on the ground; do not hold it on the ground. After the tap and line has fed out, wait until you hear the line being cut to the proper length before continuing to trim.

**Note:** To help prevent line tangle, tap once only to lengthen line. If additional line is required, wait a few seconds before retapping trimmer head. Do not allow line to wear too short. Keep line length at full cutting diameter as much as possible.

2. Lengthen line only when line has been shortened by wear. Unnecessary lengthening will waste line.

**Note:** The spool cap may wear during normal use of the line advance feature and may require occasional replacement. Replacement spools are available through your TORO retailer.

# REPLACING CUTTING LINE

Replacement line or prewound replacement spools can be purchased from your local Toro retailer. The cutting line used by Toro is specially formulated for use on your trimmer. Other line may not provide the same high quality performance.

## ⚠ CAUTION

- Use of improper monofilament line could result in personal injury.
- Do not use any type of wire or other string-like substance.
- Use only TORO .050" dia. nylon monofilament cutting line for best performance.
- Use only recommended diameter and length of cutting line as shown below.

| MODEL | DIA. OF LINE | MAXIMUM (Length)<br>ON SPOOL |
|-------|--------------|------------------------------|
| 51255 | .050 inch    | 30 feet                      |
| 51325 | .065 inch    | 50 feet                      |
| 51442 | .065 inch    | 50 feet                      |

## ⚠ CAUTION

- When trimmer is in operation, the cutting head is rotating.
- Contact with rotating cutting head could cause personal injury.
- Always be sure cutting head has completely stopped rotating before inverting trimmer.
- Never activate trimmer when it is in an inverted position.

1. Disconnect trimmer from power source.
2. To remove empty spool, insert widest possible blade screwdriver snugly into one of two window slots. With screwdriver pressed firmly into window slot, twist screwdriver 1/4 turn. Spool will snap off (Fig. 18).

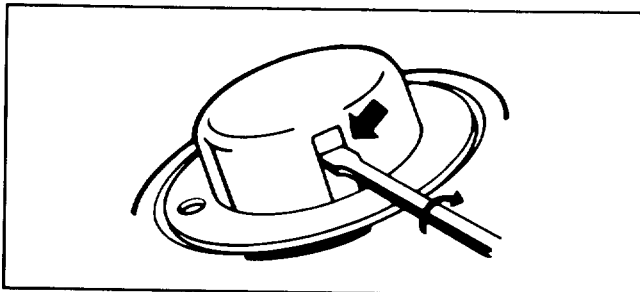


Figure 18

3. To rewind empty spool, follow the steps below:
  - A. Hook one end of line into groove on spool, allowing no more than 1/8" to protrude. Wind line in

direction of arrows on spool in level rows between spool flanges (Fig. 19).

**Note:** Trimmer will not function properly if line is wound in the wrong direction.

- B. Do not wind more length of line than recommended onto spool.

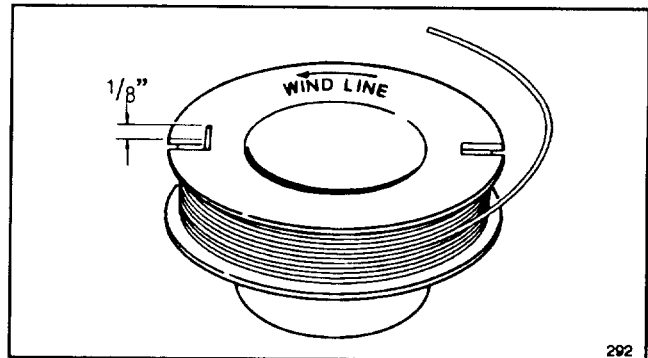


Figure 19

- C. Keep line tight on spool by making a hook in the line and secure in groove (Fig. 20).

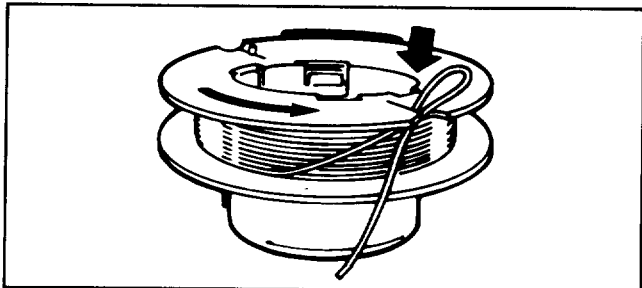


Figure 20

**Note:** Before assembly, be sure to thoroughly clean out drum area and visually inspect for any damaged or worn parts.

- D. The spool and the core are keyed. Be sure they are properly aligned with eyelet when putting spool back on. Thread end of line through eyelet, place spool on keyed core, and push in place until you hear it click. Pull line free from groove in spool. Unwind no more than 3 inches from spool (Fig. 21).

## ⚠ CAUTION

- A loose spool could fly off the trimmer.
- Contact with a thrown spool could cause injury to the operator or bystanders.
- Be sure spool is fully secured before operating the unit. Replace spool if it is damaged or does not securely snap on core.
- Keep bystanders and pets away from trimming area.

## REPLACING CUTTING LINE

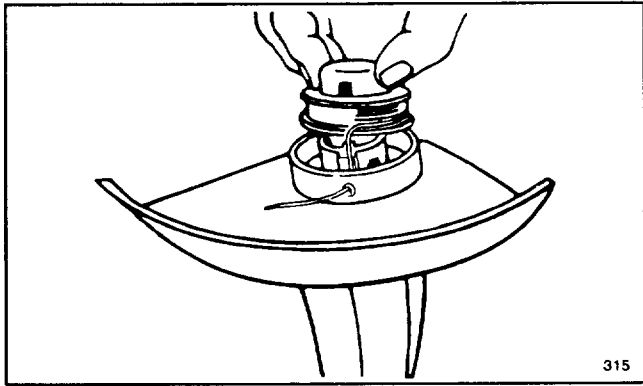


Figure 21

4. If line should tangle or break at eyelet, refeed cutting line through eyelet by pushing spool in as far as it will go and threading line back through eyelet.

Or you may remove spool completely, refeed the line through the eyelet, and reassemble spool to trimmer (Fig. 22).

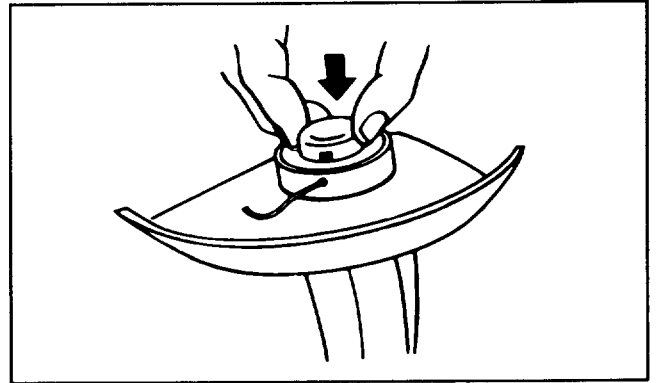


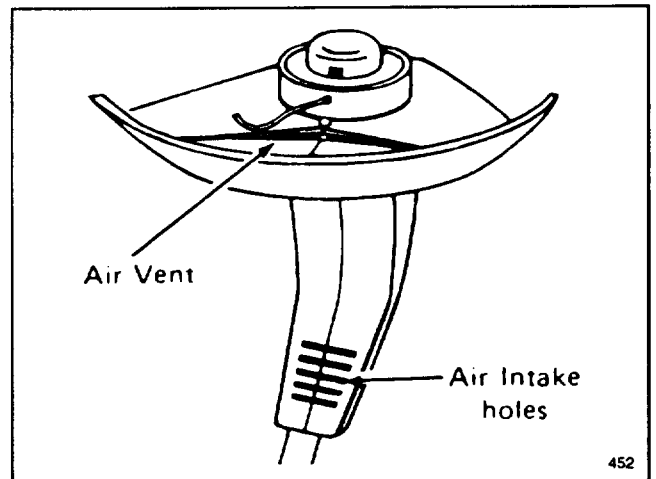
Figure 22

## GENERAL MAINTENANCE



### CAUTION

- There is the possibility that trimmer could be inadvertently started when the electrical cord is plugged in to an electrical socket.
- Inadvertent starting could cause personal injury to operator or bystanders.
- Always be sure your trimmer is unplugged and the cutting head has stopped rotating before attempting any maintenance or repairs.



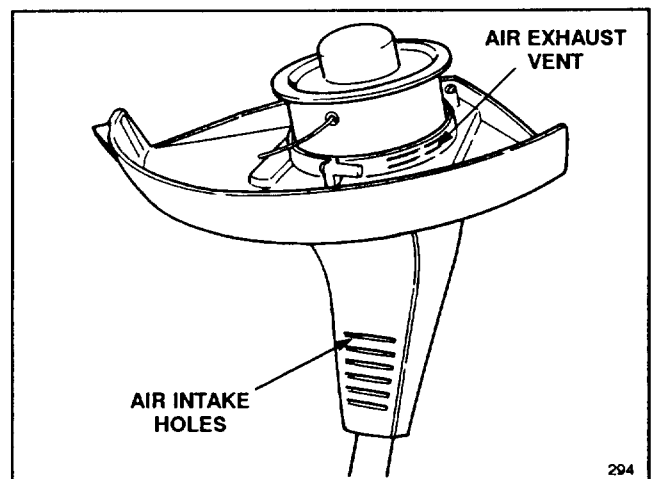
Model 51255

Figure 23

1. To keep the exterior clean, just wipe it off with a damp cloth. Never hose it down.
2. Wipe or scrape clean the drum and spool area any time there is an accumulation of dirt or cuttings.
3. Check and tighten all fasteners. If any part is damaged, repair or replace it.
4. Air exhaust vent is located on underside of shield (Fig. 23 & 24). Scrape vent clean regularly.
5. Wipe debris away from air intake holes in motor housing (Fig. 23 & 24).

**IMPORTANT:** Keeping intake and exhaust vents free of grass and debris prevents motor overheating and possible failure.

6. Any other servicing should be performed by an authorized Toro Service Dealer.



Models 51325 & 51442

Figure 24

# IDENTIFICATION AND ORDERING

The trimmer has two identification numbers: a model number and a serial number. The two numbers are stamped into a plate attached to the handle tube assembly.

**In any correspondence concerning the trimmer, supply the model and serial numbers to ensure that correct information and replacement parts are obtained.**

To order replacement parts from an Authorized Toro Service Dealer, supply the following information.

1. Model and serial numbers of the trimmer.
2. Part number, description, and quantity of part(s) desired.

**Note:** Do not order by reference number if a parts catalog is being used; use PART NUMBER.

## ACCESSORIES

| TRIMMER<br>MODEL NUMBER | REPLACEMENT PART NUMBERS |             |                      |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|----------------------|
|                         | PREWOUND SPOOL           | EMPTY SPOOL | COIL OF CUTTING LINE |
| 51255                   | 88015                    | 44-5520     | 88011 (30' of .050") |
| 51325                   | 88005                    | 29-7385     | 88003 (50' of .065") |
| 51442                   | 88005                    | 29-7385     | 88003 (50' of .065") |

## MAINTENANCE RECORD

[illegible]

## **The Toro Promise**

### **A Two Year Full Residential Use Warranty**

The Toro Company warrants this TORO Product for two years against defects in material or workmanship. To receive a replacement or repair, at Toro's option, just return the complete unit, postage prepaid, to the seller or any TORO Electric Service Dealer or the TORO Service Center, 5300 Shoreline Blvd., Mound, MN 55364, along with proof of purchase. This warranty covers product defects only. It does not cover incidental or consequential damages. **Some states do not allow the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages, so the above limitation may not apply to you.** This warranty gives you specific rights, and you may have other rights which vary from state to state.

### **COUNTRIES OTHER THAN THE UNITED STATES OR CANADA**

Customers who have purchased TORO products exported from the United States or Canada should contact their TORO Distributor (Dealer) to obtain guarantee policies for your country, province, or state. If for any reason you are dissatisfied with your Distributor's service or have difficulty obtaining guarantee information, contact the TORO importer. If all other remedies fail, you may contact us at The Toro Company.

